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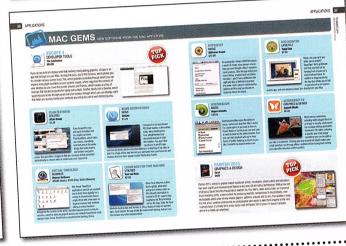
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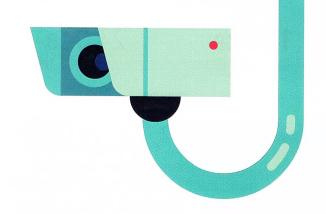


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HACK YOUR MAC

Smart Mac users know that taking some time to figure out a faster way to do something pays off in the long run. That's why they employ powerful tools that let you automate tasks you perform frequently so that you can make them happen with single keystrokes. You may not use automation tools right now. But we'll bet that, after seeing the kinds of problems they can solve, you'll take the time to download these tools and set them up soon.











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Would you wear it?

ack in April I tossed the idea around my mind, took to pen and paper to analyse the pros and cons and came to the conclusion that the answer would be 'yes'. Now, with Apple unveiling the Apple Watch and the newest category in its lineup, the wearable desire has gone to a whole new level.

Apple decided against dipping its toe in the water, it dove right in with three models, two sizes and six variable bands - one that, cased in 18-karat gold, boasts undeniable luxury.

The Apple Watch Edition is not the model for me - I don't fly first class or make business deals in the thousands of dollars, but some lucky people do and a watch made from gold can only grow their sense of accomplishment.

That is the strategy Apple has employed. It is not releasing a single 'take it or left it' model as some Android counterparts have done; it is providing a wearable that appeals to all. It's not unlike the decision to break up the iPhone and iPad lineups into varying size and price

The Apple Watch models will be available in two sizes, 38 and 42 millimetres in height, and will ship with six very different bands, from the classic leather buckle strap to crafted stainless steel.

What about for me? Where my eyes are drawn is to the Apple Watch Sport. All we know currently is the watches will launch in the US early next year, priced from US\$349, and I think the sporting version will find its way to Australia around the same time with a \$429 price tag.

As I said, back in April, I liked the Fitbit Force, a lightweight fitness tracker that (before its recall) came with a soft, flexible plastic band, and the Apple Watch Sport offers a similar band with a strengthened, lightweight glass display. Plus, there's the added ability to read messages and notifications, make calls, see Map directions, control my music and a lot

Does it tick all of my boxes? No, not all. I have issues with battery life - it will require at least a day of juice for me to consider spending the money.

Tim Cook, if you are reading this - and why wouldn't you be? - I'll take an Apple Watch Sport with a blue band, if you have a spare one lying around. Thank you!

STAFF PICKS



JONATHAN STEWART

BADLAND This side-scrolling game is one of

the most beautiful apps on the App Store. The stark visuals and simplistic gameplay make this a must-have.



MADELEINE SWAIN

NETBANK The Netbank app from the

Commonwealth Bank makes it quicker and slicker to pay my bills than ever before.



McCARTHY

IMPOSSIBLE RUSH

Impossible Rush is simple but a great way to pass the time on the way to work. It's free as well!



MONIQUE **BLAIR**

SNAPCHAT This month I jumped on the

Snapchat bandwagon and I must say I'm really enjoying the hilarious pictorial updates of my friends' lives.

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Now you can shoot Ultra HD TV or 4K feature films virtually anywhere with the Blackmagic Production Camera 4K! You get a large Super 35 size imaging sensor with global shutter, professional PL or EF lens mount, high quality visually lossless Cinema DNG RAW and ProRes recording with the built in SSD recorder, and an easy to use touchscreen for entering metadata, setting camera options, and checking focus. Imagine shooting cinematic, feature film quality video with the world's most portable 4K digital film camera!



Super 35 Senso

The large Super 35 size sensor gives you 12 stops of dynamic range for beautiful, film like images. The camera's PL or EF compatible mount combined with the sensor's minimal crop

factor means you get familiar framing, great depth of field, and beautiful wide angle shots from the lenses you already own! And because the sensor features a global shutter, you'll get perfectly smooth pans and camera moves every time!



Ultra HD 4K

The future of broadcast television and Digital Cinema is 4K! With its massive 3840×2160 pixel image, Ultra HD is 4

times the size of 1080HD and matches the resolution of traditional 35mm film. The Blackmagic Production Camera 4K lets you shoot the most amazing high resolution music videos, episodic television programs, commercials, documentaries, and more!



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battery and high resolution LCD display. Now you can shoot native 4K video with a professional digital film camera that's small enough to hold in your hand!



Workflow/Compatibility

The Blackmagic Production Camera 4K includes a built in SSD recorder that saves industry standard ProRes and compressed CinemaDNG RAW files. That means you don't have to convert

files to start working on your video. Simply connect the SSD to your computer and edit or color correct your shots in applications like Final Cut Pro X and DaVinci Resolve 11 straight from the disk!



Blackmagic Production Camera 4K PL \$3,549

Includes DaVinci Resolve Software





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE DIRECTION APPLE IS TAKING

I know I am only one person out of the millions and



millions of people who use Mac products, but I personally really do not like the way Apple is going these days. I admit I am an older user (70 years old), but I have been using Mac computers for probably around 20 years now. Many would, most definitely,

consider me to be fuddy-duddy and old-fashioned.

One of the prime reasons I chose Apple for my first computer was that I wanted to take holiday and family movies and learn to edit them, export to iDVD and burn the finished project to DVD so that they could be watched on the TV. And so copies could be given to interested family members if necessary. I wish to continue to do this. Apple was considered far superior to PCs for this exercise.

But now Apple tell us that we no longer want to burn movies to discs and expects everyone to have Apple TV's all connected to their computers etc. I have always tried to keep up as much as I can with modern computer ideas, but I feel afraid that Apple is just totally leaving me behind these days. But the worst for me is that it seems to be cutting out all the things I want to do on my computer.

Another thing I was thinking about as far as Apple is concerned is that given its propensity to 'tell us what we want', I really do hope that it won't go down the track of forcing people to only back up to iCloud. The only thing I use iCloud for is that I have Find my iPhone turned on. For everything else, I have iCloud turned off (and again I guess it goes with being old-fashioned).

I want *my* stuff on *my* computer and not on someone's server over the other side of the world. And to add to my security – any particularly confidential documents I have, I store on an external hard drive, which is only switched on when I want to access a particular document. Hopefully, that gives me further protection if someone should hack into my computer, heaven forbid.

Marg B.



THE REAL BENEFITS OF APPLE PAY

Some say that waving your phone is no different to pulling out and waving your credit card, but they miss one of the most important features of Apple's new Apple Pay!

When using Apple Pay, no one ever sees your credit card, your credit card number, your card name or your three-digit security code on the back of the card.

Every time you give a card, to a cashier to swipe etc, you're compromising your card details. *Russell*

9

LEAVE IT IN YOUR BAG

I agree it's the same pain delving into a handbag to pull out a phone as it is to grab a wallet with credit cards. The security aspect of Apple Pay does make the phone slightly more superior, but far more convenient than both is the Apple Watch. No more delving into anything. Just hold up your wrist. Jen

#BENDGATE

In regards to the news that nine iPhone owners have complained that their smartphones bent under pressure (Page 11), what a joke! I wonder if the Bendgate nine are Samsung employees. Sitting with the phone in your pocket for 18 hours... come on! Steve



WHAT DEFINES A **COMPLAINT?**

You should check how Apple defines the term 'complained'. If you take a phone into an Apple store and 'complain' that it has bent, it's more likely to be logged as a 'service' call than as a 'complaint'. I know for a fact there have been way in excess of 'nine' complaints about bent phones! Nicky

FOCUS ON BATTERY LIFE

There might be fewer people who reported they bent their iPhones, but that does not say there isn't a problem. The problem is there and it needs fixing sooner rather than later. I don't know why Apple designers are obsessed with making thinner devices. Now it has come back to haunt them. Devices like the iPhone 4 are the big deal, sturdy, a little bit heavy and durable. Emphasis should be on things like extended battery life, not thinning.

iPHONE 5s IS ON ITS OWN

Gresham

There appears to be no other small, practical, good quality smartphone on the market, so iPhone 5s has it cornered. I suspect there are millions of others like me who want use a smartphone in one hand and put it in their pocket. But I understand why these requirements are not essential for most people. I'm happy Apple has released a gigantic phone for those who want it, but Apple has to replace the iPhone 5s with an iPhone 6 mini.



A STRANGE LOT

I remember when the smartphones hit the market and the world laughed at how large they all were. Now, the world laughs if it's smaller than the competition... We're a strange lot us humans...

ScottyQ

- Letters should be emailed to editor@macworld.com.au with a subject header of 'Letter to the Editor' or by post to: Macworld Australia Mailbox, 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205. Please include your full name and address, including state or territory.
- Comments on stories or Forum posts on www.macworld.com.au are also eligible for the prize.
- We reserve the right to edit letters and probably will.
- Letters of fewer than 200 words are given preference.



This month's prize to the Macworld Australia reader who submits what we think is the most interesting letter is a Brateck Free Standing Dual Horizontal LCD Monitor Stand, worth \$98, from Anyware.

The Brateck monitor stand can hold two LCD or LED monitors up to 23in in size and 8kg in weight, providing users with the option to elevate two displays side by side.

The stand allows the attached displays to tilt 15°, swivel 180° and rotate 360° from landscape to portrait.

The Brateck stand spans 71.2cm in width, 37.5cm in height and 30cm in depth, and features a heavy-duty aluminium base.

www.anyware.com.au

TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Letter of the month 1. Instructions on how to enter form part of these conditions of entry. 2. To enter send tips or queries to editor@macworld.com.au with a subject header of "Letter to the Editor". Entries will be judged by the editorial staff of Macworld Australia. The judges' decision in relation to any aspect of the competition is final and binding on every person who enters. No correspondence will be entered into. Chance plays no part in determining the winner(s). Each entry will be individually judged based on its degree of interest 4. Employees, their immediate families and agencies associated with this competition are not 4. Entlyoyees, tiell in linebate an lines and agentees associated with this compount at the permitted to enter. 5. The Promoter accepts no responsibility for late or misdiffected entries. 6. The best entry/entries as determined by the judges will win the prize(s). 7. The Promoter is neither responsible nor liable for any change in the value of the prize occurring between the publish date and the date the prize(s) is claimed. 8. The prize(s) is not transferable and will not be exchanged for cash. 9. The winner(s) will be notified by email. 10. All entries become the property of the Promoter. 11. The collection, use and disclosure of personal information ided in connection with this competition is governed by the Privacy Notice 12. The Promoter is Niche Media Pty Ltd of 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 Ph 03 9948 4900, (ABN 13 064 613 529).

HOT STUFF A selection of Apple, Mac and iOS news from Macworld.com.au



NEW iPHONE 6 AND 6 PLUS ARE EASIER TO REPAIR

Apple's new iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are slightly easier to repair than their forerunners, the iPhone 5c and 5s, iFixit said after tearing apart the smartphones in September.

iFixit, a popular electronics do-it-yourself repair website, gave the new iPhones a

repair score of seven out of a possible 10, the same as 2012's iPhone 5, but better than the scores for 2013's iPhone 5c and 5s, which were each awarded six out of 10. The site credited the better score for this year's round of iPhones to easier removal of their batteries and the change to the fingerprint scanner's cable, which last year was easily torn from its socket while opening the case.

iFixit's iPhone 6 Plus teardown confirmed that the Apple-designed A8 SoC (system on a chip) contained 1MB of cache memory, and iFixit presumed that the same chip in the iPhone 6 did as well. This hasn't changed over the last few years.

Some had speculated before the devices' release that Apple would push the SoC RAM to 2MB in at least the iPhone 6 Plus.

The tear-down specialists also revealed that both the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus contained more powerful batteries than last year's iPhone 5s. iFixit found that the iPhone 6 uses a 3.82-volt, 1810 mAh (milliamps hour) battery, compared to the iPhone 5s' 3.8-volt, 1560 mAh battery, for a 16 percent increase in milliamp hour. an indicator of how long a battery will run between recharges.

The larger iPhone 6 Plus, with its corresponding larger case and thus space for a larger battery, uses a 3.82-volt, 2915 mAh battery, an 87 percent increase over the iPhone 5s and a 61 percent improvement over the iPhone 6.

In the two years since the debut of the iPhone 5, Apple has boosted the battery of its flagship - this year's iPhone 6, more akin to the 2012 model than the supersized 6 Plus - by 26 percent.

Apple claims that the iPhone 6 Plus will provide 24 hours of talk time, 384 hours of

standby, up to 12 hours of internet use over LTE, and as much as 14 hours of video playback. The less expensive iPhone 6's numbers, says Apple, are 14 hours of talk time, 250 hours on standby, 10 hours over LTE and 11 hours of video playback.

APPLE CREATES **ACTIVATION LOCK** TOOL TO CHECK **DEVICE'S PREVIOUS HISTORY**

If you're looking to buy a used iPhone. iPad or iPod touch device, Apple is now offering an online tool to let you first check if it's been locked down by the previous owner, which could indicate whether it was actually stolen or lost.

The service is available on the iCloud website (www.icloud.com/activationlock) and doesn't require authentication. It allows users to input the IMEI (International Mobile Station Equipment Identity) or serial number of any iOS device to see its Activation Lock status.





Activation Lock is a feature first introduced in iOS 7 as part of the Find My iPhone service on iCloud. Once it is turned on, the device is locked down and the user needs to input the Apple ID and password associated with it in order to be able to use it again.

At least that's how it's supposed to work, but hackers figured out a way to bypass the locking mechanism by tricking locked devices into using an alternative iCloud server.

Apple's new online tool could help prospective buyers determine if the device was stolen or lost even if it was unlocked with unofficial tools, because the IMEI/ Serial Number check is done against Apple's real Activation Lock database.

APPLE PUTS IPHONE 6 MODELS THROUGH THE WRINGER TO PROVE #BENDGATE IS OVERBLOWN

Apple, responding to Bendgate, Bendghazi, or whatever you wish to call the issue of seemingly-bendable iPhone 6 and 6 Plus models, claims the problem isn't nearly as widespread as the internet hullabaloo would suggest. Apple told *The* Wall Street Journal a mere nine people have come in with bending complaints since the launch of the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus in September.

An Apple spokeswoman told the US newspaper that both phones underwent multiple 'real-life' durability and strength tests before hitting production. "With normal use a bend in an iPhone is extremely rare," she said.

The company is also trying to manage the response by opening the doors to its super secret testing facility. Yes, Apple puts its new phones through the ol' sitdown test.

About 15,000 iPhone 6 and 6 Plus units were tested before the devices began shipping. That's a drop in the bucket compared to the more than 10 million phones Apple sold in September, but the sample devices were run through various scenarios that they might endure day-to-day. Then they were tortured.

Is this a new era of openness for Apple? Not really. The company opened its doors to reporters in 2010 when the iPhone 4 antenna was causing dropped calls upon release. But the move signifies that, though few customers have actually complained about the issue, Bendgate is becoming a real problem for the company's image (and stock price).

There are three kinds of sit-down tests that replicate real-world situations: sitting on hard surfaces, then soft surfaces (like couches) and then hard surfaces at an angle where the phone might bend inside a pocket. A back pocket, even.

Then the devices are put through a bend test, in which a 25-kilogram weight presses down on the phone. Reports noted that the phones do bend under the weight, but quickly rebound to normal. The phones endure a 10-kilogram pressure test and a torsion test, where the devices are twisted to an unspecified degree, to cap off the process.

The Cupertino tests are just a sampling of what quality control processes Apple puts new products through before launching. Even more tests are conducted at production facilities in China. But #Bendgate, like the iPhone 4 Antennagate before it, is causing such controversy that Apple needed to prove it does have quality controls in place – and that bent phones are outliers, not the norm.

Despite all of those tests, some iPhones are bending. If you're noticing curves on your new iPhone 6 Plus that shouldn't be there – and you haven't deliberately tried to damage the device – then head on down to your local Apple store. Your warranty should cover a replacement.

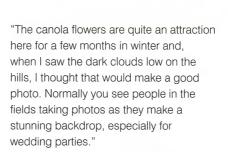
Dark clouds over a field of yellow

Travelling through WA, Jason Nitz has supplied this striking snap.



"Boddington is about 130 kilometres south-east of Perth along the Albany Highway," Jason explains. "It's set in a rural farming/forestry environment, but also has Australia's largest gold mine very close by (where both my wife and I work)."

This beautiful sight isn't uncommon in the area, according to Jason, with a number of farmers planting canola prior to winter. However, the dark clouds forming overhead create a stark contrast to the vibrant fields below.



Jason applied a small edit to the winning image with the Photos app to correct the colours and saturation, but is also a fan of filters within the Snapseed app.

"I started using Snapseed as it offers some great filters, but I only like adding filters to some types of photos otherwise they begin to look fake. We're off to a wedding this weekend and the bride and groom have registered with WedPics, so we'll be using that to share our photos. What a great idea for an app!"

In terms of the future, Jason believes the ongoing advancements to the iPhone camera may mean people can leave their cheaper cameras at home.

"The limitations of the camera can restrict the type of photography possible, but I've seen some amazing photos taken on an iPhone. So it won't be long before we see cameras in phones that can compete with cheaper point and shoot cameras."

Does Jason have advice for other snappers?

"Take as many photos as you can – one of them is bound to be a winner."

In iSnap we're on the lookout for some of the best photographs being taken with iOS devices. Submit your favourites to macworld@macworld.com.au for your chance to be featured in the online iSnap gallery (www.macworld.com.au/isnap). Each month's winner will win a prize and appear on this page!

This month's prize is a tabMount (\$39.99) and a Shutter Remote (\$54.99) from iStabilizer. Mount your tablet to any standard tripod with the iStabilizer tabMount. The tabMount is a must for professionals and amateur filmmakers and photographers.

The Shutter Remote offers control over your device via Bluetooth. The remote allows users to capture photos; change music tracks and volume; play and pause movies on an iOS device or Mac; activate Siri and initiate navigation.

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iPHONE 6 & iPHONE 6 PLUS REVIEWS

"The real magic, though, happens because of Apple's new operating system... Ultimately, it's what's on the inside that keeps them just in front of their competitors."

- Molly Wood from The New York Times.

"SO WHAT MAKES THE IPHONE 6 THE BEST?
PERFORMANCE, USABILITY AND CAMERA
REFINEMENTS, COUPLED WITH A SAFE, POWERFUL
OPERATING SYSTEM THAT NOW LETS THE
IPHONE'S BIG COLLECTION OF APPS DO MORE."

- Geoffrev Fowler from The Wall Street Journal

"THE PHONE CAN
EASILY LAST ME A DAY
AND A HALF, FROM
ONE MORNING TO THE
NEXT AFTERNOON,
NO MATTER HOW
MUCH I USE IT. I STILL
CHARGE IT ALMOST
EVERY NIGHT, BUT
AT LEAST I'M NOT
FORCED TO BABY THE
BATTERY JUST TO GET
IT THROUGH DINNER
ANYMORE."

- The Verge's David Pierce

THERE ARE OTHER SMARTPHONES THAT DO SOME OF THETHINGS AN PHONE 6 CAN DO. OTHERS, LIKE THE SAMSUNG GALAXY S5 DO WORE, IT AND THE AWAZON FIRE PHONE ACTUALLY WATCHIOUAND REACT TO YOUR GAZE EVENISO. NONEPUMMALL TOGETHER IN QUITE THE SAME WAY!

- Lance Ulanoff from Mashable

"Now, the new iPhones make their predecessors look like the tiny handset Ben Stiller used in Zoolander."

- Engadget's Brad Molen

THES AND SS FEEL BOWNRIGHT CHUNKY, NEREDIBLE:

- Darrell Etherington from TechCrunch

"I EXPECTED TO
FIND IT FAR TOO BIG,
AND AT FIRST MY
EXPECTATIONS WERE
MET. BUT GIVE IT A FEW
MINUTES, PERHAPS
A COUPLE OF DAYS,
AND YOU'LL FIND
YOURSELF STRANGELY
ATTRACTED TO ITS
HUGE-SEEMING
SCREEN."

- Charles Arthur from The Guardian about the iPhone 6 Plus

"I REALLY LIKE THIS
PHONE. AND TO PEOPLE
WHO ACTUALLY PREFER
HUGE SMARTPHONES:
YOU ARE GOING TO LIKE
THIS PHONE, TOO. THAT'S
MOSTLY BECAUSE IT'S NOT
JUST A SMARTPHONE; IT'S
A STATEMENT PHONE."

- Re/code's Lauren Goode talking about the iPhone 6 Plus

"Instead of looking over at Android phones and wondering what I'm missing, the iPhone once again has my full attention."

- Geoffrey Fowler from The Wall Street Journal

"AFTER A FEW DAYS,
I FOUND I HAD
UNCONSCIOUSLY CHANGED
THE DEFAULT POSITION OF
MY FINGERS WHEN HOLDING
THE PHONE AND USING IT
FELT ENTIRELY NATURAL."

"Taking image quality, responsiveness, and shooting options into consideration, these arthe two best camera phones I've ever used."

Harry McCracken from Fast Company



Imagining Apple's future digital media format

Bono's suggestion that a new digital music format is in the works with Apple has one writer speculating.

n a *Time* article (time.com/3393297/u2-apple-new-digital-format/), U2's Bono spoke about the desire to see musicians and songwriters paid for their work. And he has a point. With the advent of bit-perfect copying of digital music and the ability to share it across the internet, record and song sales have declined. And because sharing is so widespread, music has become largely valueless in the eyes of consumers.

As such sales kept a lot of artists in the business, where have they turned to make the daily loaf? Some have taken to performing and merchandising their name, but unless you're already established, this is a difficult path.

Less well-known artists depend on fan support and have expanded their skill set to include production and session work. Still others gave up the major label dream years ago and have set out on an independent avenue where they not only write, record and perform, but book and market their own performances.

U2 (and allegedly Apple) are taking a step back and asking the important "Why is it that just about everyone else in the world deserves to be paid for their work but not artists?" question.

So what exactly could such a scheme offer to consumers that might compel them to pay for music rather than steal or stream it?

I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR

To answer that question I think we have to start by looking at what LPs and CDs offered that we don't get from digital downloads.

Quality. There rages a debate (largely among audiophiles) that the quality of digital downloads and music streams is noticeably inferior to high-resolution recordings. Blind-listening tests among the general population don't support such claims, but those with great ears and equipment steadfastly maintain that they can indeed tell the difference.

Are there enough people so distressed by the quality of today's encoded music that they'd pay Apple (and artists) for higher quality downloads? Probably not. But as a portion of a broader package, it may make purchasing this music more attractive.

Extra content. You may recall that when you flipped open a CD, you were greeted with additional artwork, production credits and lyrics. When you purchase or stream music today you get the music and perhaps a thumbnail of the cover art.

In 2009, Apple launched the iTunes LP format, which includes some of this

Audio quality. Products such as Neil Young's highresolution PonoPlayer are designed

audiophiles

in mind.

content as well as bundled videos. But a limited number of albums are offered in this format, and such material isn't available for single tracks.

Extra, extra content. As I've mentioned, artists make their living in ways other than selling songs. This format could be a gateway to other means for connecting with artists. Purchase an album and get early access to tickets for their next performance or procure T-shirts.

SWEETEST THING

In my imaginings, the motivation is all carrot, no stick. These days it's difficult to reverse the trend and ask people to pay for content. And making that content more difficult to consume by imposing walls between it and consumers does little more than engender resentment. If such a format really is in the offing, it mustn't inhibit our ability to enjoy the music we own. We've played that discordant song before and it rarely merited a second listening.

Here's hoping that U2 and Apple can navigate a path that delivers both quality and compensation and offers a greater motivation for purchasing music that matters. 'Twould make for luminous times indeed.



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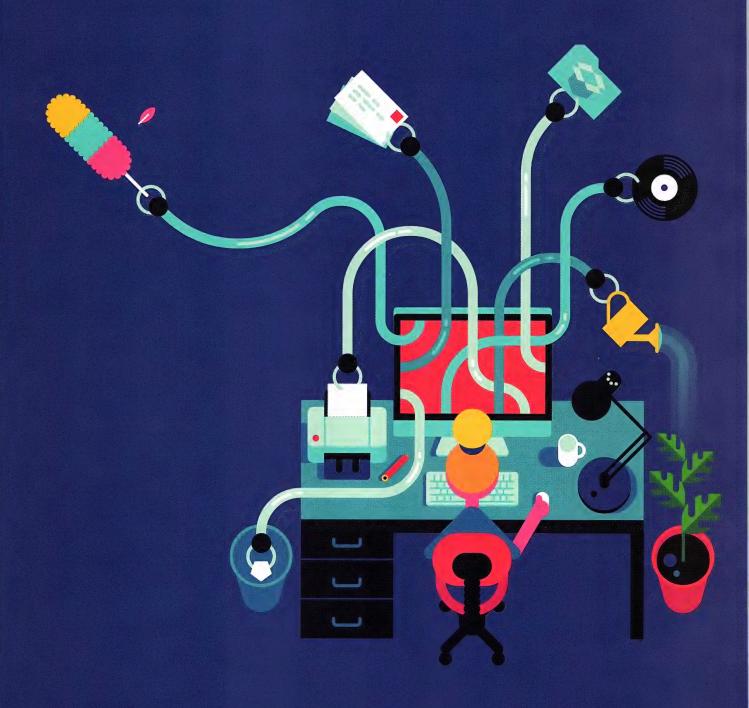
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HAGA VOUR MAG

These tricks from Mac experts will help you automate (almost) everything.

mart Mac users know that taking some time to figure out a faster way to do something pays off in the long run. That's why they employ powerful tools such as AppleScript, Automator, Hazel (noodlesoft.com), If This Then That (ifttt.com), Keyboard Maestro (keyboardmaestro.com), TextExpander (smilesoftware.com) and others - tools that let you automate tasks you perform frequently so that you can make them happen with single keystrokes (or other quick triggers) instead of running through all of the steps every time. We're always looking for ways to save time, so we asked some of our colleagues and friends for their favourite timesaving tricks - the most useful, cleverest systems they've set up to automate everyday tasks. The quantity and quality of the replies were stunning. You'll find our picks in the pages that follow. You might not use automation tools right now. But we'll bet that, after seeing the kinds of problems they can solve, you'll take the time to download these tools and set them up soon.

MANAGE FILES AND FOLDERS

CLEAR THE DESKTOP



TOOL: AUTOMATOR

I tend to litter my desktop with files throughout the day. To neaten things up, I created a simple

Automator workflow that shuttles all of these loose files to a Desktop Moved folder that I established within my Documents folder. First I opened Automator and selected Calendar Alarm as the type of document. Then I added the following actions, in order: Get Specified Finder Items (adding my Desktop folder to its list), Get Folder Contents and Move Finder Items (specifying my Desktop Moved folder as the target). Finally, I set this alarm to





Clear the decks. Use this Automator Calendar Alarm to sweep files from your desktop regularly.

go off every Sunday at 5 pm, so I can start my work week the next morning with a clean desktop.

- CHRISTOPHER BREEN

GET A SHARABLE PUBLIC DROPBOX LINK FOR A SELECTED FILE



TOOL: KEYBOARD MAESTRO

When I need to share a file, I often do so by selecting

it in the Finder, moving that file to my Dropbox's Public folder and then obtaining the Dropbox link to the uploaded copy.

So I created a Keyboard Maestro macro to automate the process.

You can achieve a similar result with the Dropbox Mac app, but that procedure requires you to move the file into your Dropbox folder and then use the Dropbox menu-bar icon (or the Dropbox web interface) to obtain the link. Some other third-party utilities can collect Dropbox links as well, but I prefer the flexibility that Keyboard Maestro gives me to, say, chain multiple macros together – in just one quick step, for example, I could take a screenshot of the frontmost window and then automatically put that image in Dropbox.

The first step of my sharing-link macro selects the file by using the For Each action, specifying Path in the 'For each' drop-down, and adding the collection The Finder's selection. Four actions follow that: Move (or Rename) File (opting to move the file %Variable%Path% over to the folder ~/Dropbox/Public); Filter Variable to obtain just the filename (selecting the Path variable from the 'Filter variable' dropdown and choosing Last Path Component for 'with'); Set Clipboard to Text to copy the Dropbox path to the Clipboard (putting 'Set' to System Clipboard and 'To' to plain text and then entering the URL pointing to the public Dropbox folder, followed by %Variable%Path%); and, finally,

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Simple Dropbox steps. Through Keyboard Maestro, you can move a file to Dropbox and get its sharing link.

Notification (with the title Dropbox link copied and the Message' field set to the token %CurrentClipboard%).

Note that, for the third action, Set Clipboard to Text, you can obtain the base URL for your Dropbox's Public folder by putting a file into your Public folder and then using either the Dropbox menu-bar icon or the web interface to grab a sharing link. Strip off the filename part at the end, and you can use the remainder of the URL in this macro.

- MATT GEMMELL

TAG FILES BY AGE



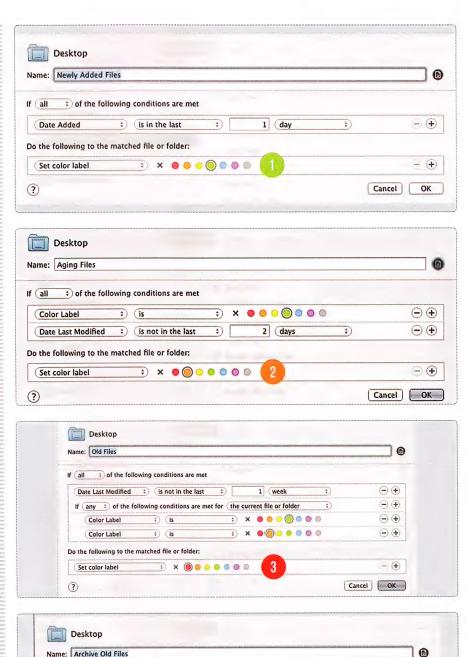
TOOL: HAZEL I use my desktop as my primary inbox. When I save a new file, it goes straight there. Then, at the end of the

day, I review the desktop's items, tagging and moving files as necessary. With Hazel, I made this task easier by colour-coding files according to how old they are. Specifically, I mark brand-new files with green tags.

When those files are two days old, I swap in an orange tag. After lingering one week on the desktop, files get a red tag. Any red items that sit for more than two weeks automatically move to an archive folder (which I revisit monthly), unless I've manually applied a blue 'protect' tag

To apply all this tagging, I created a series of Hazel rules based on the Last Modified date. The Green rule looks for files created that day and applies the green tag to them. The Orange rule looks for files tagged green that I haven't modified within the past two days and tags those items orange. Red looks for orange- or green-tagged files unmodified in the past week and relabels them accordingly. And the Archive task looks for any file not coloured blue that has been sitting unmodified for more than two weeks.

- BRETT TERPSTRA



Ageing gracefully. If you tend to toss all of your files in one spot and need a way to organise them automatically, Hazel can help you apply colour coding to sort new and ageing files. 1. In such a system, you can start by applying a green label to brand new files. 2. Once two days pass without your modifying those green-tagged files, you can give the man orange label. 3. Files that spend a week sitting around receive a red label. 4. Finally, files that you haven't touched in the past two weeks move to an archive folder - unless you've manually applied a blue label to protect them.

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Options

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- +

Cancel OK

Name: Archive Old Files

Date Last Modified

Color Label

Move

(?)

If (all *) of the following conditions are met

Do the following to the matched file or folder:

is not

is not in the last

to folder: Archive



Saved for later. This IFTTT recipe saves Twitter links to articles you want to read.

MANAGE EMAIL

EMAIL FAVOURITE TWEETS TO YOURSELF



TOOL: IFTTT
As I scan
my Twitter

stream, I often see links to articles that I'd like to read but can't delve into at the moment. Rather than saving them to Safari's Reading List or to a service such as Readability, I prefer sending such tweets to my email inbox so that I can process their links later, when I have time. IFTTT lets me do so instantly – all I have to do is favourite a tweet.

First I activated the Email and Twitter channels in IFTTT. Then I set up the basic recipe: If Twitter, then email. In the action, I accepted the default subject line: Favorite tweet by @{{UserName}}. And for the body of the email message, I also accepted the default entry: {{TweetEmbedCode}}
via Twitter https://twitter.com/ {{UserName}}
cbr>
cfreatedAt}}.

Now, whenever I mark a tweet as a favourite, I receive an email message a few minutes afterward with the tweet in the body, including the link to the article I want to read. This arrangement also gives me a record of my favourite links, in case I want to revisit an article later.

- KIRK MCELHEARN

HIDE REPLY-ALLS IN A SEPARATE MAILBOX



TOOL: MAIL

As with every company, we here at the office deal with certain groups inside

our organisation who believe that clicking Reply All is a proper response to any 'Welcome, Bob!' or 'Great work, team!' message that crosses the wire. Thankfully, such people tend to cluster within their own domain (something along the lines of '@wehavenoclue.com').

So I created a simple Mail rule to handle their effusions. In the Inbox Rules section of the Rules tab in Mail's preferences, I added a rule that looks for messages in which the From field contains their domain, and then performs the action Move Message and specifies a separate mailbox as the destination. I can then peruse that mailbox when my patience allows.

- CHRISTOPHER BREEN

FILTER MESSAGES SENT TO A PARTICULAR ADDRESS



TOOL: iCLOUD I answer a lot of reader help emails

addressed to the same account, an account that forwards the messages to my iCloud address. To keep those messages from cluttering up my iPhone, I set up a rule on iCloud. Server-side rules work on email before it reaches your various inboxes, so



Cross-platform rules. iCloud email rules apply to both iOS and OS X mailboxes.

they apply to all of your devices.

Sign in to iCloud on the web. Click Mail, click the gear icon at the bottom left and choose Rules. Click Add a Rule. Set the first pop-up to 'is addressed to' and then enter an email address. (You may want to use 'is from', but 'is addressed to' is a fine choice for email from discussion lists.) You can also indicate a specific term in the subject, to filter messages. In the Then section, choose Move to Folder and select the name of the folder on the iCloud server where you want the messages to go. Click Done to save and activate the rule,

- KIRK MCELHEARN

FLAG EMAIL FROM SPECIFIC SENDERS

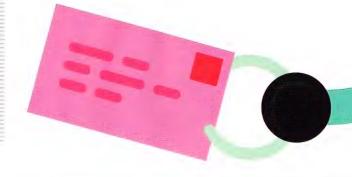


TOOL: MAIL

I get lots of email from my colleagues and I've found it helpful to set those

messages apart so that I can quickly spot urgent email. So I set up a rule in Mail to mark the messages and notify me when they arrive.

In Mail, I first chose *File > Preferences* and selected *Rules*. I then clicked New Rule





Mail sorter. A simple rule makes it easier to manage a batch of messages sent from specific domains.

and set If any of the following conditions are met to From contains, with the desired email domains. And on the messages that match those conditions, I set the rule to perform several actions: Move Message to mailbox Inbox; Set Color of text to Other (I chose an eye-catching purple); Stop evaluating rules (to prevent other rules from moving or altering the messages); and Send Notification.

- KIRK MCELHEARN

REPLY TO EMAIL WITH A STANDARD GREETING



TOOL: KEYBOARD MAESTRO

I reply to many email messages every day and I like to thank the

sender by name for writing to me.

I created a Keyboard Maestro macro that I can trigger by typing the text string 'hisender'. (Of course, you could use a hotkey or any other trigger that Keyboard Maestro supports.) In the 'Will Execute the Following Actions' section, I created a variable (sender addr) and used the Insert Token drop-down to assign that variable to the sender of the frontmost message in Mail. I then added an action to search that variable for a regular expression: $^{"?([^{s}]+)(.^{*})}$. That pattern captures the first chunk of text in the sender's name and email address. The action saves the found text string into a new variable, sender name.

Finally, I used the Insert Text by Pasting command to insert my greeting, with the sender's name added: Hi



Just saying hi. With Keyboard Maestro, you can insert a tailored greeting for email replies.

%Variable%sender_name%.. That's followed by Thanks for your message. % |%. I also place the text-insertion point after the greeting so that I can continue typing my reply.

- MATT GEMMELL

FORWARD EMAIL WITH SPECIAL FORMATTING



TOOL: KEYBOARD MAESTRO; MAIL

Dozens of times a day, I forward press releases to my colleagues; each message goes to a particular person based on the topic area.
When I do so, I replace 'Fwd:' in the subject line with a standard

prefix to make it easier for that person to filter these messages. It's a simple but tedious task, so I created some Keyboard Maestro macros that perform all of the steps with a single keystroke.

For example, to forward an iOS-accessory press release to Joel Mathis, I made a specific macro. First, for the trigger, I chose Hot Key Trigger from the New Trigger pop-up menu and specified %-Control-Option-Shift-I. Next, I created a series of actions: Press ('type' in Keyboard Maestro terminology) %-Shift-F (Mail's Forward Message shortcut); pause for half a second (to wait for the forwarded-message window to open); paste Joel's email address as the text; pause for half a second (to wait for Mail's autocomplete addressing feature to catch



Format forwarded email. This Keyboard Maestro macro forwards a press release to a writer and customises the subject.

up); tab three times (to move the cursor to the Subject field); press the left-arrow key (to move the cursor to the beginning of the Subject field); press forward-delete three times (to remove 'FWD' from the beginning of the subject); paste 'iOS accessories' (to add that text to the beginning of the subject line); pause for half a second (to make sure Mail doesn't fall behind); and press \$\mathbb{X}-\Shift-D (Mail's Send Message shortcut).

- DAN FRAKES

EMAIL ENCRYPTED PDFS



TOOL: AUTOMATOR

OS X's support for Portable Document Format allows you to create PDFs without the help of

third-party software. One of the quickest methods is to use the PDF menu in a standard Print dialogue box. And one of the handiest services in this menu is Mail PDF. Thanks to that option, you don't have to first save a PDF on your hard drive and then attach it to an email message. However, while Mail PDF is convenient, it isn't perfect, especially for PDFs holding sensitive data. So I turned to Automator and made a service that creates and then password-protects a PDF file before attaching it to an email.

Open Automator and select Print Plugin from the list of workflows. Drag over the Encrypt PDF Documents action. You don't need to enter a password in the Password and Verify fields, but do check the Show



Protect your PDFs. Creating and mailing encrypted PDFs is a snap with an Automator workflow

this action when the workflow runs item under Options. (Alternatively, you can use a dummy password for now.) Next, drag over the New Mail Message action.

That done, save the workflow with a name such as Mail Encrypted PDF; that item will now appear as an option in the PDF menu at the bottom of the standard Print dialogue box. When you select it, you will see a prompt to enter a password for the PDF; if you entered a dummy password when you created the workflow, that dummy will be entered here by default. When the service is finished, the PDF file will embed as a secure document in a new email message.

- TOPHER KESSLER

MANAGE **APPLICATIONS**

OPEN WORK APPS WHEN CONNECTING TO THE OFFICE WI-FI



TOOL: KEYBOARD MAESTRO

Some of my most productive time is in the early morning: I

usually arrive at the office before everyone else and I get the most done in those hours, without interruption. Trouble is, I'm also easily distracted. When I sit down at my desk in the morning, it can be too tempting to open Twitter or some other shiny object on my Mac that will draw my

attention away from the work at hand. To get focused, I use Keyboard Maestro.

Despite its name, Keyboard Maestro can do a lot more than merely trigger events in response to a keyboard shortcut. It can also respond to other triggers, such as connecting to a specific wireless network. So I created a Keyboard Maestro macro that detects when I've connected to the office Wi-Fi network and uses the Open a File, Folder, or Application action to launch BusyCal, Dragon Dictate, Mail and Omni-Focus. Also, through the Open a URL action, Keyboard Maestro opens Safari to a certain work-related website that I need to check every morning.

- DAVID SPARKS

AUTOMATICALLY HIDE APPS



I work with a lot of apps throughout the day and I keep them

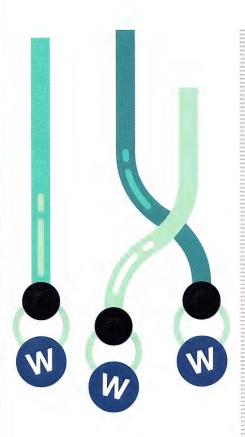
open at all times. This practice could lead to a lot of window clutter if it weren't for DragThing (dragthing.com). Within its General preference, I selected the Hide other applications when switching option. Now, when I click an icon in my DragThing app palette, the selected app comes to the fore and all other running apps vanish into the background.

- CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Switching

- Bring all windows to the front when switching
- Hide other applications when switching
 - Only hide when switching using DragThing

Keep apps tidy. In DragThing, you can prevent multiple apps from becoming unwieldy.



WORK WITH URLS

GET A URL AND TITLE IN MARKDOWN



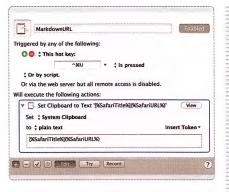
TOOL: KEYBOARD MAESTRO

In much of my writing, I use Markdown (daringfireball.

net/projects/markdown/) syntax. I also frequently refer to articles on the web, which requires me to copy and paste the article's title and its URL into the Markdown format, in this form: [Article Title](http://article-url-here).

That workflow used to mean two copy-and-paste trips from my browser to my text editor. But I now use a Keyboard Maestro macro that copies the current webpage's title and URL and puts them on the Clipboard in the proper format.

In Keyboard Maestro, choose *File > New Macro* and enter a name (such as MarkdownURL). Choose Hot Key Trigger from the New Trigger pop-up menu. Press a key combination (I use %-Control-U). Click New Action, and then double-click Set Clipboard to Text (found in the



Applying Markdown syntax. Keyboard Maestro can copy the current webpage's title and URL to the Clipboard in Markdown format, ready to paste.

Clipboard category).

In the text field, enter [%SafariTitle%] (%SafariURL%). (To do the same thing for

Chrome, instead enter [%ChromeTitle%] (%ChromeURL%).) Now switch to an open page in Safari and press the keystrokes you assigned. Switch over to your favourite text editor and paste – the result should be proper Markdown for that title and URL.

- JOE KISSELL

QUICKLY COPY AND PASTE URLS



TOOL: TEXTEXPANDER

When I'm writing a blog post or an email message, I typically

want to refer to a URL that I just found in Chrome. I could switch to the browser, select and copy the URL, and then switch back to whatever application I'm writing in and paste it – or I could just type '"curl' in my document, which is my abbreviation for a TextExpander snippet I created. That snippet runs a simple AppleScript:

tell application "Google Chrome" to return URL of active tab of window 1

When triggered, the script grabs the URL for the active tab in Chrome and inserts it into whatever I'm writing.

For Safari, you can change the script to: tell application "Safari" to return URL of current tab of window 1

In either case, when you're setting up the snippet, select AppleScript from the Content drop-down at the top of the TextExpander window.

- BRETT TERPSTRA

WORK WITH ITUNES

SET TRACK NUMBERS FOR ALBUMS IN ITUNES



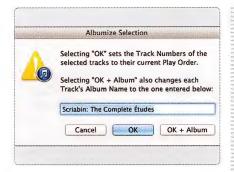
TOOL: APPLESCRIPT

As a classical music reviewer, I get prerelease recordings,

on CD and by download. Often these recordings aren't tagged correctly; track numbers in particular tend to be inaccurate (or non-existent). For tracks to appear in the correct album order, their Track Number tags need to be correct. Fixing them manually is a pain, but AppleScript can help.

First, download Doug Adams' Albumize Selection script (dougscripts.com) and add it to your iTunes Scripts folder. (Adams provides installation instructions, if you need them.) Next, put the tracks you want





Put them in order. Doug Adams' iTunes script adds numbers to selected tracks.

to rearrange in a standard playlist. After making sure the leftmost column header is selected, simply drag and drop the tracks into the order you want. Now select the tracks and run the script. You can choose to set the album name, or you can set just the track numbers.

If you're going to use this script frequently, you can set up a keyboard shortcut for it: In System Preferences, click Keyboard and then Shortcuts. Click App Shortcuts and click the Add (+) button.

Select iTunes from the Application menu, and type the exact name of the AppleScript. Set the shortcut you want to use and click OK.

- KIRK MCELHEARN

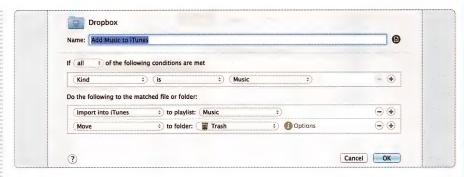
IMPORT MUSIC FROM DROPBOX TO ITUNES



TOOL: DROPBOX; HAZEL

A couple of bands
I like have run
Kickstarter projects

to fund their albums, after which they've made songs available to backers via Dropbox (dropbox.com). Initially, after following the download URL, I'd click 'Save to My Dropbox', which resulted in a



Out of the box. If you save songs to your Dropbox, this Hazel rule will add them to iTunes and delete the originals.



bunch of MP3 files sitting at the top level of my Dropbox folder. Now, though, I use Hazel to look for such files, import them into iTunes and delete

the originals from my Dropbox. (You can adapt this technique for processing other media types too.)

In the Hazel pane of System
Preferences, click the Add (+) button under
Folders, navigate to your Dropbox folder,
and click Open. With Dropbox selected
on the left, click the Add (+) button under
Rules. Give your rule a name (such as Add
Music to iTunes). Set one condition: Kind
is Music. Then add two actions: Import
into iTunes (choosing whichever playlist
you like) and Move to folder Trash. Click
OK. From now on, shortly after new
music files appear at the top level of your
Dropbox folder, Hazel will add them to
iTunes and delete the originals.

- JOE KISSELL

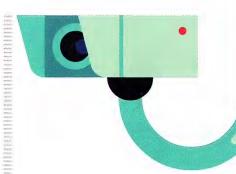
IMPROVE SECURITY

LOCK YOUR MAC WHEN YOU LEAVE



TOOL:
APPLESCRIPT;
DROPBOX;
HAZEL; IFTTT
I have a job that's

security-sensitive, so I usually lock







my Mac's screen when I step away. Occasionally, though, I forget. As a backup, I have a screensaver, set to activate after 10 minutes, that requires a password to deactivate.

And by using my iPhone and several tools, I can trigger the screensaver to start up whenever I leave the immediate area.

You need an IFTTT account and the accompanying iPhone app. In the app, set a location-based trigger for whenever you exit an area. For the trigger's consequence, tell IFTTT to create a text file in your Dropbox account. After you create the recipe, select it and click Edit. In the File Name field, name it as you wish; I chose lock_computer plus the default {{OccurredAt}} token, which adds the date and time.

Next I created a Hazel rule to watch the Dropbox folder in question (the default is /Dropbox/ifttt/ios location) for items matching two criteria: Name contains lock_computer and Date Created is in the last 1 hour. (The latter prevents accidental triggers when my Mac wakes from sleep.) Lock your Mac remotely. Hazel and IFTTT, in combination with your iPhone, can trigger your Mac's screensaver to start when you leave the immediate area.

When Hazel finds such files, the rule moves the found file to the Trash and runs an AppleScript:

tell application "ScreenSaverEngine" activate end tell

With all that set up, the screensaver runs when I need it to do so.

- KATIE FLOYD

QUICKLY LOOK UP PASSWORDS



TOOL: 1PASSWORD; LAUNCH CENTER PRO



1Password (agilebits. com) is my password manager of choice, but working with the iOS app can be time-consuming: To find a given password, I

need to open the 1Password app, tap the search bar and then type out what I'm looking for. So I created a Launch Center Pro (contrast.co) action with a list of my frequently used logins. Now, when I want to look up a password for those particular services, I just tap a button in Launch Center Pro.

To create one of your own, open Launch Center Pro and tap the Edit icon at the upper right. Create a new action, tap Action Composer and (assuming that 1Password is installed on your device) tap Installed Apps and select 1Password.

Launch Center Pro will display a list of supported 1Password actions; choose Search for Entry. Provide a name for the action, tap Entry, tap the first icon on the left in the extra keyboard row, and select List.

Here Launch Center Pro will allow you to create a list of login names to find in 1Password; you can give the list a name (say, Logins) and add as many logins as you want by inserting their names in the Title and Value fields of List Items (both are necessary). Set the Encode Output toggle to On. When you're done creating the list, tap Done to save the action.

- FEDERICO VITTICI

HANDLE OTHER TASKS

PASTE THE PREVIOUS CLIPBOARD CONTENTS



TOOL: KEYBOARD MAESTRO

I often paste something and then immediately realise I wanted the

previous contents of my Clipboard. To make a quick keyboard shortcut that will paste whatever was in the Clipboard just before the current thing, I set up a Keyboard Maestro macro.

Choose File > New Macro and enter

a name (such as Paste Previous Clipboard). Choose Hot Key Trigger from the New Trigger pop-up menu. Press a key combination (I use #-Control-V). Click New Action, and then double-click Set Clipboard to Past Clipboard (under the Clipboard category). Leave the Past Clipboard number set to 1. Next, double-click Type a Keystroke (under the Text category), click in the Simulate Keystroke field and press #-V.

To use the macro, copy something to your Clipboard (such as with \mathbb{H}-C) and then copy something else. Press \mathbb{\mathbb{H}}-Control-V (or your chosen shortcut) to paste the previous item. One side benefit of the way Keyboard Maestro handles the Clipboard: you can use this keyboard shortcut repeatedly to alternate between the last two items on your Clipboard.

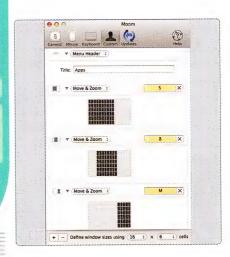
- JOE KISSELL

MOVE WINDOWS TO DEFAULT POSITIONS AND SIZES



TOOL: MOOM
I have a few apps
constantly running
and I almost always
want their windows to

be in particular locations and in particular sizes. But sometimes I move or resize such windows temporarily, or the app or



Quick custom windows. You can make Moom keyboard shortcuts for Safari (S), BBEdit (B) and Marked (M) window positions.

OS X does so without my asking. Rather than manually restoring the windows to my preferred configurations, I use Many Tricks' Moom (manytricks.com/moom) to set up keyboard shortcuts.

Open Moom's preferences window and switch to the Custom screen. Create a new custom item by clicking the Add (+) button, choose Move & Zoom as the item type, and 'draw' your desired window size and placement on Moom's representation of your screen. Next, click in the keyboard-shortcut field and press your desired single-key shortcut. From then on, whenever you want to restore, say, a Safari window to its preferred configuration, just bring up Moom's keyboard-control bezel, and then press the key for Safari (in my case, S). Moom lets you configure and switch between sets of window arrangements, too.

- DAN FRAKES

PRINT ANY SELECTED TEXT



TOOL: AUTOMATOR One feature that Windows users enjoy is the ability to print any selection of text, be

it on a webpage or in a word processing document. If you covet such a feature, you can replicate it in OS X with Automator.

Create a new Service workflow in Automator. Set the top item to Service receives selected text in any application. Drag the New Text File action over to your workflow. Select Same as input text from the File Format drop-down and then specify a filename such as tempFile.txt in the 'Save as' box. Choose a location for the document (such as your Downloads folder) and check the Replacing existing files option.

Next, drag the Print Finder Items action over to the workflow and choose Default Printer as the device to use. Finally, save your workflow with a name such as Print Selected Text.

Now you can select some text in almost

any application, and then right-click it and choose the Print Selected Text service from the contextual menu. You can also assign the workflow a shortcut in the Keyboard pane of System Preferences. Simply select the Shortcuts tab, choose the Services section on the left, scroll down to the bottom of the services list, find your new service, and then enter your custom hotkey combo.

- TOPHER KESSLER

TAKE AND RENAME A SCREENSHOT OF THE FRONTMOST WINDOW



TOOL: KEYBOARD MAESTRO
I often take screenshots

I often take screenshots of windows on my Mac and then

email them, send them via iMessage or upload them to share. OS X lets you take window-specific screenshots by pressing \(\mathbb{H}\)-Shift-4 and then the spacebar, but the resulting files have awkward names like 'Screen Shot 2014-08-04 at 17.51.22. png'. So instead I use Keyboard Maestro to capture a shot of the frontmost window and then write the image to a file on my desktop, using a name that's derived from the window's title (I can change this name within the macro).

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□ Section Reference Vicesials Fresh WindowsharewOIIS
□ Section WindowsharewOIIS
□ Prompt for User Input Screenhot Resume
□ Prompt
□ Fresh WindowsharewOIIS
□ WindowsharewOIIS
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□ Cancel Macro
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Cleaner screenshot names. This sequence of Keyboard Maestro steps can help you capture a properly named screenshot of your frontmost window. The first action is Screen Capture, with Capture the Front Window and to Default Clipboard specified in the drop-down menus. The next three steps assign the name of the frontmost window (%WindowName%1%) to a text variable (window_name), filter the variable to lowercase, and replace the spaces in it with dashes. The macro then prompts for user input to name the file, suggesting the suitably formatted window title that the preceding steps created, but allowing me to alter it. The last step writes the Default Clipboard's contents to a file with the specified name, placing it on my desktop.

- MATT GEMMELL

QUICKLY ACCESS YOUR LOGIN ITEMS LIST



TOOL: KEYBOARD MAESTRO

If I want to edit my Login Items list, I can always open System

Preferences, click Users & Groups and click the Login Items tab. But I prefer using a Keyboard Maestro shortcut that takes me there

Choose File > New Macro and enter a name (such as Open Login Items). Choose Hot Key Trigger from the New Trigger pop-up menu. Press a key combination (I use \(\mathbb{X}\)-Control-L). Click New Action, and double-click Open a System Preference Pane (under the Open category). Choose Users \(\mathbb{E}\) Groups from the Open Preference Pane pop-up menu (if it isn't already there).



Fast shortcut. Want to go straight to the Login Items tab of Users & Groups? This macro will take you there.



LYEINTUNE

WHAT MOVES YOU

Our new LIBERATE BT BLUETOOTH® PORTABLE AUDIO SYSTEM is the new standard in sonic beauty.

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AVAILABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING STORES













Double-click the Pause Until action (under Control Flow). Choose Front Window Condition from the New Condition pop-up menu. Select System Preferences from the Front Application pop-up menu; if you don't see it, look under Recent. (Leave everything else as is.) Double-click Press a Button (under Interface Control) and replace the 'OK' text with Login Items.

That's it. Now, when you press your designated keyboard shortcut, the Login Items tab will open.

- JOE KISSELL

AUTOMATE IOS TASKS WITH LAUNCH CENTER PRO

One of my favourite iOS apps is Launch Center Pro (contrast.co/launch-center-pro) because it brings some amount of automation to iOS. The app does so by allowing you to create actions – simple or complex tasks based on a particular app or system service (or combinations of those things).

The simplest action you can make merely launches an app, but many apps allow Launch Center Pro to control them more specifically, through formatted URLs. Launch Center Pro includes an Action Composer for creating common useful actions. The Action Composer provides thousands of actions for hundreds of apps.

But my favourite part of Launch Center Pro is that users can share every action they create, no matter how simple or complex, via launchcenterpro.com, using special URLs. Thanks to this feature, you don't even have to be familiar with Launch Center Pro's URL syntax or comfortable with the Action Composer, to populate the app with useful actions. Here are a few of my favourites – you can install any of them in Launch Center Pro by visiting the listed URL in Safari on your iOS device.

CONVERT TO PLAIN TEXT

https://launchcenterpro.com/46qrld

This action changes formatted text on the Clipboard to plain text. You can then paste the text elsewhere.

CLEAN LINK

https://launchcenterpro.com/m67nt1

If you have the Clean Links app (www.cleanlinksapp.com) installed, this action takes a URL from the Clipboard, expands it (if it's shortened) and strips it of tracking tokens and other superfluous text.

SEARCH 1PASSWORD

https://launchcenterpro.com/wvj1hw

I'm a big fan of 1Password, and this action makes it easier to use by presenting a list of common online accounts. Tap one to search for that login in your 1Password app or tap Search to look for a different login.

GET DROPBOX FILE LINK

https://launchcenterpro.com/21f7qk

Love Dropbox but think sharing a file is a pain? This action lets you navigate your Dropbox to find your desired file; choose it, and Launch Center Pro puts the public URL to that file on the Clipboard for sharing.

PHOTO URL

https://launchcenterpro.com/pw8cx8

This action goes a step farther than the previous one, as it allows you to choose any photo in the Photos app and then uploads that image file to your Dropbox account, placing the public URL to the photo on the Clipboard for sharing.



Simple or complex. In Launch Center Pro you can create groups of related actions.

DOWNLOAD LINKED FILE TO DROPBOX

https://launchcenterpro.com/jldyt1

If you've ever been frustrated by the inability to download a file to your iOS device, this action, combined with an appropriate IFTTT recipe (ift.tt/1mGyLJI), is the solution. Copy a file's download URL to the Clipboard and then run this action, and the linked file automatically downloads to a folder of your choosing inside your Dropbox – where it's available on all of your devices.

GIPHY GIFS

https://launchcenterpro.com/7wxsp6

Do you like including animated GIFs in your texts and tweets? This multistep action first asks whether to search Giphy.com or browse your bookmarks on the site; it then asks if you want to copy the resulting link to the Clipboard, tweet it, iMessage it or email it. If you elect to search, the action prompts you for your search term. You then get a Giphy screen with a list of the resulting animated GIFs. Choose one and Launch Center Pro sends it to the appropriate app.

- DAN FRAKES



1985 2015

MACWORLD REUNION

Collectors Edition



Celebrating our 30th birthday, Macworld Australia is going back through the years to relive the best times. From product launches to unforgettable moments, this book showcases the history of Apple in Australia and is a musthave companion for all fans. Also hear from the founding editor and the key Macworld people who have been part of this 30-year journey.

Available by pre-order only

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subscribe.niche.com.au/en/content/macworld_reunion or call 1800 804 160.



APP GUIDE Cool software for the iPad, iPhone & iPod touch.



STAR WALK 2

EDUCATION Vito Technology **iPHONE & iPAD** \$3.79

Like the original, Star Walk 2 works by pointing it at the sky to get a real-time view of celestial bodies. As you move it around the app constantly adjusts to show what is out there beyond Earth. A new feature, Time Machine, explores the map of the night sky from years past or into the future. Just turn the dial and watch the skies go back in time. Another feature is Sky Live, which gives real-time statistics about the visibility of the moon and other planets in the solar system. If you are satisfied with the first Star Walk, upgrading is not a necessity, as the original app still works very well. Yet for \$3.79 the wow factor of a nicely polished Star Walk 2 is pretty difficult to turn down.





LONGFORM **NEWS** Longform

IPHONE & IPAD FREE



Originally only available on the iPad, this app is essentially like having an entire magazine library within a single app. The latest update gives the app a bit more of an RSS feel, letting users choose which of nearly 1000 publishers - including magazines and individual writers - they want to follow. Articles can be bookmarked throughout the day and then digested in one big block.



SWYPE UTILITIES **Nuance Communications iPHONE & iPAD \$1.29**



An app that has made its way to iOS after iOS 8 opens the door to third-party keyboards; Swype lets users enter a number of words, symbols, punctuation and other written items using swipe gestures. Swype learns the way you type and adjusts itself accordingly to make typing or swiping easier. The more often you use the keyboard - the better it gets.



HANX WRITER

PRODUCTIVITY Hitcents **IPAD FREE**



There's something delightful about the HanxWriter typewriter app. The app's viscerally satisfying, from the ka-chunk sound of tapping the keys to the bell that triggers when you reach the end of a line. The basic app is free, but for additional

typewriter models, ribbon colours and the ability for multiple documents (alongside other features), you'll need to turn to in-app purchases.



PLATES BY SPLITWISE UTILITIES

Splitwise iPHONE & iPAD FREE



When you launch the app, you tell it how many people ate, the total bill amount and, separately, the total tax. For each item on the bill, you enter the price and then

drag it to the person paying for that item; if multiple people shared the item, drag the price into the centre and then tap the appropriate plates.



HYPERLAPSE PHOTO & VIDEO Instagram iPHONE & iPAD FREE



Hyperlapse lets you take video of just about anything — flying, driving, panning across a beach, a selfie from your front-facing camera — and Hyperlapse condenses and stabilises it into a beautifully-rendered timelapse from 1x to 12x regular speed, offering almost cinematic results. You can then share the video to Facebook or Instagram. Hyperlapse also saves the finished product to your Camera Roll.



KINDLE BOOKS AMZN Mobile iPHONE & iPAD FREE

Branch Tiger A True Sto... □

began taking advantage of the forest's weathle of all its forms. The tigers, because they are so rare and so valuable, have been particularly hard hit their organs, blood, and bone are much sought after for use in traditional Chinese medicine. Some believe the tiger's whiskers will make them bulletproof and that its powdered and that its powdered have a some believe the second of the seco

The Kindle app is now ready for iOS 8, with a new 'Kindle Today' widget that lets users jump straight into books from their lock screen's Notification Center. The updated app includes a translation feature for words or phrases that are written in other languages. Finally there is one long awaited feature: users can now cut-and-paste passages from books into other apps.



PAKO
GAMES
Tree Men Games
iPHONE & iPAD \$2.49



With crashes, high-speed chases and hairpin turns, *Pako* is not just your average endless runner. It is an endless getaway game, where escape is impossible — how long until your car chase ends in a crash depends upon your skill.

Pako has five different maps to choose from with different vehicles and obstacles, but your goal is always the same: drive to stay alive.



REVOLUTION 60
GAMES
Brianna W Wu
iPHONE & iPAD FREE



Revolution 60 captures everything about action/adventure films, classic sci-fi and good storytelling — and puts it on display through a smart series of choices, reactions, events and combat sequences. This is a game for people who love good stories, who may not

be ready for a big-tier title like *Mass Effect*, but want the same character investment and for those who genuinely enjoy fantastic iOS games.



OSCURA SECOND SHADOW GAMES Surprise Attack Games

iPHONE & iPAD \$3.79

Everybody loves platformers. But it's difficult to find a good platformer that isn't just a copycat of a classic favourite. *Oscura Second Shadow* is clearly inspired by old school platformer games, but it's also clearly unique. *Oscura Second Shadow* is set in Driftlands, a world that has been dropped into darkness after an evil creature has stolen the world's light source — a giant, glowing crystal — and shattered it across the game's 20 levels. You play as Oscura, a rabbit-like creature with a glowing fireball in his hand. Oscura can run, jump and occasionally cause his fireball to glow brightly, slowing down time and enemies. The game is simple and intuitive like old school platformers, yet with a completely different ambiance and art style.



Miniot iWood 6

The iWood 6 is carved from a single block of wood, so each one is unique. iWood 6 provides slim and lightweight protection for your iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus. All buttons are covered and recreated in wood, while access to the charging dock, camera and headphone jack remains. Personal text and image engraving is optional.

Miniot / US\$103 + shipping / www.miniot.com



GEAR GIZMOS GOODIES

ADGETGUIDE



BiteMyApple togoDock

The togoDock is a portable dock and charge cable. designed to turn any surface into an iPhone dock. It comes with a Lightning and USB connector, has embedded magnets to dock the iPhone in place and a disc mount so that a mount can be set up anywhere as long as it's on a vertical or horizontal surface.

BiteMyApple US\$34.99 + shippingwww.bitemyapple.co



Creative Labs Sound Blaster E5

The Sound Blaster E5 is a high-resolution portable headphone amplifier and digital-analogue converter designed to play your music in high fidelity. It includes dual audio outputs for music sharing, and Bluetooth connectivity that provides wireless audio enhancement. The Line/Optical In and Out provide connections for digital and analogue sources such as game consoles and media players.

Creative Labs \$229.95

www.au.creative.com



Satechi Spectrum Wired Optical Mouse

The Spectrum mouse customises your workspace as much as it does your Mac - it cycles through seven bright LED colours to add a bit of variety to your computing life. Need some relief? The LED can also be turned off, leaving you with the smooth chrome finish on the mouse. Or you can lock into a single colour that best expresses your style or mood.

Satechi US\$29.99 + shipping www.satechi.net



Canon PowerShot G7X

This pocket-sized camera comes with a 20.2-megapixel CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) sensor, alongside a DiG!C 6 image processor, bright f/1.8-2.8 lens, 4.2x optical zoom, optical image stabilisation, 3in flip-up touchscreen and full manual control with RAW image support. The Canon also features Wi-Fi and NFC (near field communication) — so you can connect to the cloud and share images and video to your social networks.

Canon

TBC

www.canon.com.au



Speck CandyShell Grip for iPhone 6 and 6 Plus

This case features raised rubber ridges that provide a no-slip grip for a secure hold, especially useful for the large and sleek design of the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus. A raised bezel also protects its screen and adds extra grip when the iPhone lies facedown on tables. Also in the range are the CandyShell, CandyShell Inked and CandyShell Card cases.

iWorld Australia \$39.95

www.iworldonline.com.au





Griffin Survivor Core for iPhone 6

One of three cases in Griffin's Survivor line, the Survivor Core is the thinnest and lightest case in the group. It consists of polycarbonate at the back and extra resilient TPE (thermoplastic elastomer) rubber at the edges and corners for impact protection, while still showing off the back of the iPhone 6. Includes the Survivor drop protection of up to 2m onto concrete.

Griffin Technology US\$29.99 + shipping www.griffintechnology.com





MAC GEMS NEW SOFTWARE FROM THE MAC APP STORE



XSCOPE 4 **DEVELOPER TOOLS** The Iconfactory \$64.99

If you do any kind of creative work that involves manipulating graphics, xScope is an app that belongs on your Mac. Among the tools, you'll find Screens, which allows you to simulate various screen sizes; Text, which provides a window through which you can explore every glyph available on your system; Loupe, which magnifies the contents of your desktop as you move the pointer around; and Frames, which creates a series of overlays that can act as guides for laying out content. Another handy tool is Overlay, which superimposes a see-through panel over your screen, through which you can display a grid that helps you quickly format your contents according to a set of well-defined guides.







PLAINTEXTMENU UTILITIES Alfred Danny



If you frequently copy and paste formatted text, you might just adore PlainTextMenu, which strips out colours, formatting, bold text and all the pesky things that make sharing text between programs

a pain. The app offers a trigger so that you can have all text converted automatically or choose when to dedecorate your copied text.



NEWS NOTIFICATIONS NEWS Deviate \$1.29



Compared to the best-known RSS feed readers on the market today, News Notifications is as straightforward and uncomplicated as its drab title implies. You won't find cloud sync to an iOS app,

community-driven article recommendations or a directory of top sites to add. It's simply a Mac app that lets you add feeds from your favourite web sources and have them appear in your Notification Center.



VIRTUAL TIMECLOCK **BUSINESS Redcort Software**

US\$99 (Basic); \$195 (Pro); \$295 (Network)



The Virtual TimeClock applications provide an excellent way to track time digitally for a variety of environments from a single office with a few users to large businesses with multiple offices in many locations

throughout the country or the world. Excellent reporting tools in the pro versions, export to most any payroll service and network-based time clock options make Virtual TimeClock an excellent time tracking choice.



LOGVIEWER FOR TIME MACHINE UTILITIES

Ron van Rens \$2.99



When Time Machine suffers from a glitch, what went wrong isn't always clear, as the relevant information is buried in OS X's system logs. LogViewer for Time Machine parses the logs, finds the Time

Machine backup data and formats it. Errors display in easy-to-spot red type. Upon launch, the app shows the most recent backup, but you can also browse any other backup entries.



BITPERFECT MUSIC BitPerfect Sound \$12.99



An audiophile's dream, BitPerfect opens a world of clearer, more present sound than you ever thought a Mac's speakers could produce. After the app scans your music library, enable it and run iTunes normally — you'll hear a difference like night and day as BitPerfect upscales the audio. Add a slew of customisation options and this app has enough to keep any music fan happy.



DOG MONITOR LIFESTYLE TappyTaps \$4,99



Want to know what the pup is up to while you're at work? TappyTaps' \$4 Dog Monitor can help you find out by keeping track of your pet's every bark and noise. In addition to logging activity, the app also allows you to talk to your dog via a companion

mobile app, and even stream pictures live directly from your Mac.



INTERMISSION MUSIC Rogue Amoeba US\$15



Intermission offers users the ability to pause, rewind and skip their Mac's audio. It's a great option if you want to hear an iTunes Radio or Spotify track over and over, or need to head out for a few minutes. And you can start playback with up to three hours of buffer, skipping as much as you like. Available via rogueamoeba.com.



SCREENSHOT FX GRAPHICS & DESIGN Appsoft Studio \$6.49



When taking screenshots, selecting oddly shaped items in an image is usually a task saved for an image editing application. Screenshot FX makes selecting a specific area of an image something you can do right as

you take a screenshot. Clicking your way around the object makes your initial selection, but the app offers a number of fine-tuning tools to help you adjust the selection until it's perfect.



PAINTER 2015 GRAPHICS & DESIGN Corel \$429

Painter 2015, which is geared toward traditional artists, illustrators, photo artists and educators, has seen significant improvements thanks to the new, 64-bit native architecture. With a new set of physics-based brushes that produce realistic fur, fire, fabric, water and smoke, an improved brush-tracking utility, a new control for producing realistic randomness in brushstrokes, new workspaces and a slew of new media (papers, patterns, textures and so on), this update is huge. For the artist, creative professional or photographer who wants to take their imagery to the next (surreal) level, it's finally time to pry open a can of Painter 2015 (even if it doesn't actually arrive in a metal can anymore).





SPEEDING UP Your Note-Taking

BY ANTHONY CARUANA

T's one of the great hassles of the modern era. Despite all of the great technical innovations out there we are still looking for ways to capture everything that happens in meetings.

The trouble is, as imperfect as it is, a pen and paper still remains the easiest way to quickly capture information during a meeting, presentation or some other event.

However, we are working in an age where solutions to this perennial problem are close at hand.

SMARTPENS AND SMARTPAPER

It was just a few years ago when tacking the letter 'i' in front of anything made it seem hip and cool. Now, it's the word 'smart'. And while it's been smartwatches that have dominated tech headlines, smartpens and smartpaper have quietly snuck into our offices, boardrooms and classrooms.

Here's how they work. The pens look like any other pen, albeit a little bulkier. The extra heft is used to hold a highly sensitive microphone and an infra-red camera. All of these extra bits work with special paper.



As you write, sensors in the pen record what you're writing. Once you're done, the contents are uploaded to your computer where the notes are reproduced and synchronised with the audio that was recorded. A pattern of barely visible bots on the paper lets the pen know where you're writing on the page. Each page has a unique identifier so that the software on your Mac puts everything in the right place.

What this gives you is a record of the meeting where your written notes are supported with audio from the meeting.

The most well-known smartpen system is Livescribe. There are several

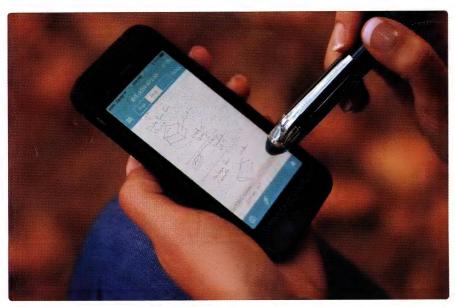
different pens and you can either buy the smartpaper from many stationers or print your own using a suitable laser printer. The accompanying software works with popular note-taking applications such as Evernote and OneNote as well as Livescribe's own software.

VOICE RECOGNITION

For many, getting their Mac to convert their spoken words into text has been something of a holy grail. Well known Apple pundit David Pogue has been using voice recognition software for many years as he has a condition called tenosynovitis which means he can't type for any length of time. Given that a professional writer can rely on modern voice recognition, it's no surprise that this is a viable option to help you with your own note taking.

For many years, the 'go to' application for voice recognition was Dragon Dictate, now called Dragon Naturally Speaking. It's a mature product that's been on the market for almost two decades. However, your Mac has voice recognition baked into the operating system.

All you need to do is press the function key twice to activate it. Then you can start talking and the software will automatically convert your voice into words. The voice recognition is accurate enough that we were able to type this sentence without even touching the keyboard. There was no training required even though this used



Digital scribe. Livescribe's 3 Smartpen captures hand-written notes digitally on your iOS device.

to be the standard thing you needed to do with voice recognition software in the past. It does take some getting used to it, but with a little practice, it's faster than typing unless you're a good touch-typist.

You can even issue commands like 'new paragraph' and 'full stop' so that your grammar and punctuation are correct.

GET TO KNOW IOS 8: WHY BUSINESS USERS (AND IT DEPARTMENTS) WILL BE HAPPY

BY JOEL MATHIS

It's an old story now, but still worth remembering: when the iPhone debuted way back in 2007, it wasn't much thought of as a device for business users. It had email, yes, but not many of the security features favoured by IT departments – and besides, the BlackBerry dominated the business market anyway.

These days, there's an iPhone and an iPad in nearly every boardroom. Why? Because the bosses liked them and brought them to work despite the complaints from those IT departments.

But Apple was not blind to the BYOD. Every new update to iOS brings a host of new features designed to mollify the folks down in IT. The release of iOS 8 is no different. It has a host of new features aimed at making iOS devices more secure, more manageable and more productive.

The key to all that: Apple wants the iPhone to work for both IT departments and workers – to give the former a sense of security that company-owned devices can be managed and protected, while still letting users have the same ease and enjoyment (and even privacy, in spots) in their iPhone use that regular consumers enjoy.

As Dave Rahardja, a software development engineer at Apple, said at WWDC 2014, the business features of iOS 8 "restrict data flow so that your enterprise data doesn't flow into your user's data space and vice versa".

Here's a quick overview of some of the new business-focused features you'll find on your iPhone and iPad as you upgrade them to the new iOS.

SECURITY

This is perhaps the most important concern for IT departments. A lot of proprietary information flows through a worker's computer – and, yes, through his or her iPhone – during the course of a business day. IT folks don't want competitors stealing the company's secrets just because the iPhone security was a bit lax.

Expanded data protection. In previous versions of iOS, users could already encrypt their mail and some third-party apps with the use of a passcode. With iOS 8, the list expands to the Calendar, Contacts, Reminders, Notes and Messages apps. Following each reboot, information from each will remain encrypted with passcode until the device is unlocked.

Individual message security. Now users with advanced security access can encrypt individual email messages for added secrecy. Turn on the feature, and a 'locked' sign will appear next to the email recipient's name in the message you're sending.

DEVICE MANAGEMENT

There's nothing an IT department loves more than to be able to control a worker's iPhone from the comfort of the home office. iOS 8 gives the IT folks a better chance to do just that. A new mobile-device-management interface makes it easier to add a device to the



internal network of a business, and offers transparency to the phone users. iOS 8 also lets IT departments see the last time a device was back up to iCloud – and thus to know whether or not certain operations are safe to perform.

Among iOS 8's other new datamanagement tools, it enables IT departments to control:

- which apps can open documents downloaded from enterprise domains on Safari
- which apps can open documents from the iCloud Drive
- the name of the device
- the ability of users to add restrictions, and
- the ability of users to erase a device.

 Additionally, iBooks, ePub and PDF
 documents can be pushed straight to a user's
 device so he or she always has precisely the
 materials needed. Similarly, when the PDF
 of that quarterly report is no longer needed
 on a user's device, a remote IT professional
 can pluck it off and return it to a secure
 location inside the company firewall.

PRODUCTIVITY

Finally, iOS 8 will in fact let worker bees get more done.

Mail. Now users can designate individual mail threads as VIP, to keep track of important conversations. (A custom mailbox groups VIP threads together.) And Exchange users can set automatic reply messages to be sent to emails – such as when you're away from work, for example.

Calendars. The latest version of iOS makes it easier to schedule meetings with other iPhone users: the app lets users see colleagues' availability so that the right time can easily be found. Apple says it's also easier to create custom repeating events, and the Calendars even lets users email other meeting attendees directly from the app to let them know when they're running late.

Document access. We already told you that IT departments could decide which apps can open enterprise documents. This

process is made smoother from the user's perspective, too, allowing them to start up the app and open an enterprise document in it.

File transfers. AirDrop support between iOS and OS X lets users transfer files to and from Macs, even when there's no internet connection available.

WHAT IS VOIP?

BY ANTHONY CARUANA

Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP, was heralded as the great disruptor that would completely revolutionise the telephone industry. There was a vision that we would abandon our old, rusted on telcos and embrace the internet as the infrastructure that phones rely on.

Since the 1870s, when the telephone system was simultaneously invented by Alexander Graham Bell and Antonio Meucci, poles strung with copper wires have been the bedrock of our telecommunications.

Almost a decade ago, things started to slowly change because of two factors. The internet became more ubiquitous and performance increased significantly. As a result it became possible to communicate in real time over the internet.

VoIP telephone systems use a data network in place of the poles and wires provided by telecommunications providers. For businesses, this means the investment you've made in Ethernet and fiber optic in the office can be used for your phone system.

While this might not sound like a big deal, it's significant. Because everything is carried digitally as data, expensive equipment like PBXs can be replaced with commodity hardware running specialised software. The only piece of special hardware that's needed is a device that bridges your office's VoIP system with the outside telephone system.

For some businesses, this isn't even needed. There are companies such as MyNetFone and Neural that offer cloud-



based PBX systems. All you need is a data point for each handset in the office that connects to the internet and you have a business phone system.

VoIP relies on a stable internet connection. If the internet connection becomes slow through heavy traffic then call quality can suffer with crackly lines, dropouts and poor sound the result. However, it is possible to prioritise VoIP traffic on your company LAN so that phone call quality doesn't suffer if internet traffic increases unexpectedly.

In many cases, VoIP services can be cheaper than traditional phone systems but it is important to look at costs carefully. There are monthly service charges and call costs that need to be checked. There is a perception that VoIP services are free, such

as the popular Skype service and Apple's FaceTime Voice, but these are limited. For example, Skype calls between Skype users are free but using the Skype Out feature, to use Skype to call people on the traditional phone system incurs a fee.

Many VoIP solutions in the market are part of a broader communications offering called Unified Communications, or UC. UC pulls together telephony, instant messaging, video conferencing, collaboration and other business applications so that all of your office communications are centralised and integrated.

VoLTE, or Voice over LTE, is the new kid on the block.

LTE stands for Long Term Evolution. It's the wireless data communication network used in cellular communications. VoLTE uses this data network for voice, as well as data communications.

With VoIP, the data transmission uses the IP, or Internet Protocol. VoLTE is similar but uses the LTE protocol for the data network. In order for a mobile handset to use VoLTE, it needs the appropriate hardware. The iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus both support VoLTE on networks that have this enabled.

All of the major carriers in Australia have announced that they are either trialling or introducing VoLTE in the near future.

ACCESSING THE OFFICE WHEN YOU'RE OUT

BY ANTHONY CARUANA
While we often hear about all of the
benefits that ubiquitous communications
and mobile devices deliver, there is a

downside. Some of the tools we rely on simply don't work as well on smaller devices. And there are some services that our customers rely on that we need to have available regardless of where we are and what device we have at hand.

REMOTE COMPUTER ACCESS

There are times when there's an application or file on your computer that you just need to use when out of the office. There was a time when accessing a computer remotely was difficult and required changes to your firewall and complex configuration.

However, services such as LogMeIn and Back to my Mac have simplified those processes significantly.

LogMeIn relies on you signing up to a cloud service. You install a small app on your Mac and a client application on your iOS device. The cloud service 'brokers' a



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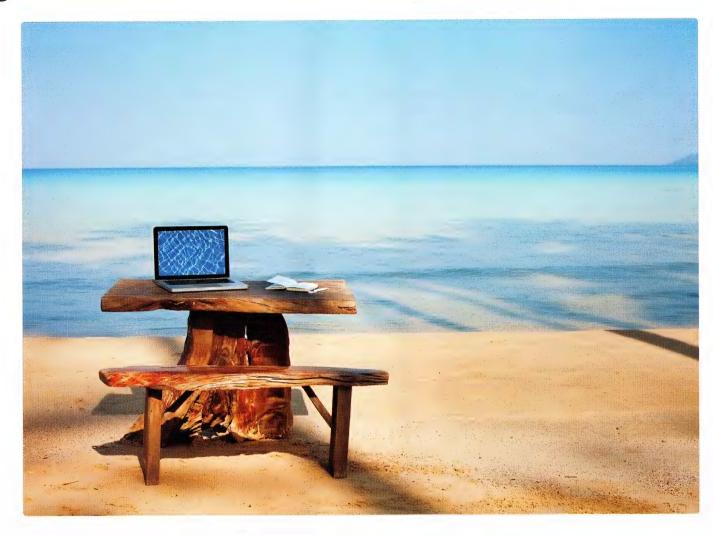
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connection between the two ends without the need to set up firewall rules or make configuration changes on your router.

LogMeIn offer a range of different services and packages depending on how many users are in your organisation and your specific needs. For example, there are services tailored for IT support as well as regular remote access with the capability to print documents and listen to sound remotely.

Apple's Back to my Mac leverages OS X's Unix roots by using VNC as the basis for its service. Although it may require some firewall changes for use, if you're using Apple's AirPort Extreme it should work right out of the box once it's enabled in System Preferences on your Mac.

VOIP

VoIP has significantly disrupted the

telecommunications industry. Instead of being tethered to the phone system, you can make and receive calls using the internet as the infrastructure you connect to.

One of the key parts of VoIP is a standard called SIP – the Session Initiation Protocol. If you install a SIP client on your portable device it's possible to access your VoIP service from anywhere with an internet connection.

Many VoIP providers offer a SIP client for mobile devices. However, you're not necessarily stuck with what they offer. There are many free SIP clients in the App Store that you can use. All you need are the connection details that would have been provided in the welcoming email or documentation delivered when you signed on for the service.

Once your client software is correctly

configured, you can make and receive calls from anywhere and your clients won't know you're not in the office.

CLOUD APPLICATIONS

Cloud applications and storage allow you to keep working regardless of your device and location.

SaaS, or Software as a Service, offerings such as Office 365, Google Apps, Xero, Saasu, SugarCRM and SalesForce allow you to maintain access to all your critical business functions and activities without being tethered to a specific device or location.

When you're dealing with a client, you can use SaaS applications to look up customer data, enter invoices, and check on past contacts – anything you can do with a traditional application can be done with a SaaS program.



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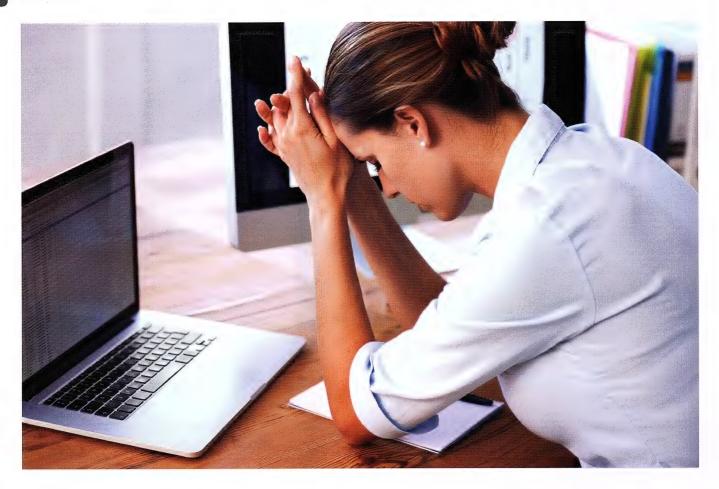












How to prepare for a Mac disaster

Protect your Mac and other digital assets. By JOE KISSELL

o one likes to think about disasters such as burglary, earthquake, fire, the zombie apocalypse or other catastrophes that could potentially wipe out your Mac, your other gadgets and perhaps even your entire home or office. But these things do happen (with the possible exception of the zombies) and, despite your best efforts, you might not be able to prevent the loss. You can, however, minimise the damage and inconvenience you'll suffer - and speed your recovery - by making sure you've taken a number of commonsense steps to prepare for misfortune ahead of time.

INSURANCE

Let's start with your hardware itself – your Mac(s), hard drives, monitors, printer, scanner and so on. If you pulled into your driveway and found a huge crater where your home used to be, replacing that equipment will probably be in the top 10 items on your post-tragedy to-do list. Will your insurance cover it? If you haven't checked into that question specifically, this might be a good time to study your policy or chat about it with your insurance agent.

I've found that homeowners' and renters' policies vary greatly with regard to their coverage of computer equipment, especially laptops. Some of them cover computers only when they're in your home, only up to a predetermined limit that's much lower than your overall policy, or only if the equipment is personal property and not business property. You may be able to purchase a rider that adds (or increases) coverage for your computer equipment. Alternatively, you can buy a separate policy that covers only personal property in general or computer equipment in particular.

BACKUPS

Once your insurance settlement has come through and you've purchased a new Mac, you'll want to restore all "If you want to give the police a better shot at recovering your stolen Mac, make sure you've enabled the Find My Mac feature."

the data that you wisely backed up and stored off-site. Um... you did back up all your data and store a copy off-site, didn't you? If not, now's the time to start doing so – right now. Local backups (using Time Machine with an external hard drive, say) are great for quickly restoring files that go missing in the normal course of events. But if your house burns down with those external drives inside, you'll be out of luck if they were your only backups.

There are two main ways to get off-site backups. First, you can use a cloud backup service such as Backblaze (www.backblaze.com), CrashPlan (www.crashplan.com) or DollyDrive (www.dollydrive.com) to store a copy of your data in one of their remote, secure data centres. When it comes time to restore that data, you can either download it (which may take quite a while if you're restoring tens or hundreds of gigabytes) or request that your data be sent to you on an external hard



Find help. Remember to enable the Find My Mac option.

drive (for an additional fee, of course). Cloud backup services won't be able to restore your operating system and applications, however.

An alternative approach, which does let you store a complete copy of your disk offsite, is to make a full backup on an external drive, then store that drive at the home of a friend or relative, at the office or in a safe deposit box. That's not a bad idea, but it's more work than a cloud service – especially if you want to keep that backup up-to-date (which you do).

IN CASE OF THEFT

If a thief absconds with your Mac, you may still have to deal with insurance and backups, but now you have an additional problem: the thief has access to your data. You certainly don't want a criminal browsing your contacts, looking at your photos, reviewing your bank records, and so on. There are some things you can do thief-proof your Mac:

FileVault. The best way to prevent unauthorised access to a stolen Mac is to encrypt its contents with FileVault. It's easy to set up, has a minimal impact on your Mac's performance, and makes your data nearly impenetrable by anyone who doesn't know your login password. (You are using a strong, unguessable login password, right?)

To set up FileVault, go to the Security & Privacy pane of System

CRASHPLAN

CRASHPAN

CRASHPA

Back it up. CrashPlan allows you to store your backups locally, in the cloud, or in both places.

Preferences. Click the lock icon, enter your administrator username and password, and click OK to unlock it. Then click the FileVault tab and click Turn On FileVault. You'll be prompted to follow several additional steps, one of which is writing down a recovery key that you can use to access your data if you should forget your password. Restart your Mac to begin the encryption process. Your Mac will be a bit slower for several hours or more until the process completes, but you can continue using it in the meantime.

Find My Mac. If you want to give the police a better shot at recovering your stolen Mac, make sure you've enabled Find My Mac on the iCloud pane of System Preferences. (That, in turn, requires that Location Services to be turned on, on the Privacy tab of the Security & Privacy pane.) In addition, you'll want to enable the Guest User account on your Mac so that someone can boot your Mac and run Safari, even with FileVault enabled – giving Find My Mac more time to reveal your Mac's location.

Theft-recovery software. Whether or not you use Find My Mac, you can also install third-party software that tracks your Mac's location and even does things like snapping a photo with the built-in camera and taking a screenshot from time to time, the better to identify a thief. Possibilities include Orbicule's Undercover (www.orbicule. com), Hidden (www.hiddenapp.com), Fork's Prey (www.preyproject.com) and GadgetTrak Laptop Security (www. gadgettrak.com). But bear in mind that none of these is compatible with FileVault, so if you want their extra recovery features, you'll have to forgo a fully encrypted disk.

There's nothing you can do to prevent disasters from happening. But take these concrete steps and you can do something about the damage they cause.



How I make Finder Tags work for me

Organising your files doesn't have to be complicated. Check out this simple seven-tag system. BY MATT GEMMELL

've always struggled to use file-tagging systems. My tendency is to over-apply Finder tags, so I wind up with hundreds of different ones, a result that barely provides more retrieval value than just searching by the files' contents. Since modern operating systems constantly index everything, I see tags as more of an organisational and categorisation system.

Over time I've found a simple tagging system that seems to work for me, and I thought I'd share it with you.

WHAT I WANT IN A TAGGING SYSTEM

I have a few prerequisites for any type of tagging system:

- I don't want to use tags in place of hierarchical folder organisation. I can't get out of the habit of using folders and subfolders, and I'm not comfortable with the concept of using tags to partially replace that system. So if I can express something about a file by where it lives, I take that approach.
- I don't want to create tags that overlap anything that's part of a file's content or existing metadata.
 Doing so seems redundant to me, and just another thing that I'd need to maintain. Spotlight's indexing is excellent and I'm happy to trust it to do its job.
- Tags come in seven colours (not counting the No Color option). I

- want to use each colour exactly once, so that the colours are meaningful when I see them in the Finder. If a colour has more than one meaning, I may as well not have that information visible at all.
- As with any categorisation system, I want to limit the number of categories any file would have.
 One category is ideal and two is
 OK. Any more than that means
 I'm probably violating my first two
 prerequisites.
- I want the vast majority of my stuff not to have any tags at all, again so that the tags are meaningful. If my system requires tagging lots of files, I won't use it. Life's too short for that kind of house-keeping.

Also, when I search for a given tag, I want the list of results to be as short as possible.

MY NEEDS

I'm a writer, so I tend to work with various kinds of text files. I usually have a lot of files, most of which are small in size.

I have a number of clients, but not many at any one time. I have a few simultaneous projects going, but again not many of them – perhaps five to 10 at most. Those are manageable quantities to deal with; I can be completely aware of everything I'm working on at the moment without any confusion. I'm fortunate to have such a simple work situation. I have, however, also used a similar organisation scheme when I was making software.

In any case, my organisational system is based on a few simple concepts:

- I have a very small set of active projects.
- I have two other types of documents that I need to keep track of: ideas for future projects (very important for me) and reference material I'm working with.
- My documents fall under one of the following three stages: currently being worked on, submitted and awaiting publication and done. The second state is obviously important for invoicing and various other business reasons. The last one doesn't require a tag, because that would mean tagging lots of stuff.
- I retain absolutely everything, of course, but some old files are more important than others. So apart from the Everything category, I classify my materials as essential information that is vital and/or irreplaceable, and things that I should always keep. And it's critical to distinguish between 'just keep it around' and 'this is really important'.

MY TAGS

All of those requirements lead pretty naturally to a seven-tag system that I've split into three different categories.

Type-of-content tags. Writing is the tag that applies to most files, and it indicates that the file contains things that I have written. I can very quickly find my own body of work with this tag.

Ideas is my tag for a series of files that each contain ideas for possible future articles, stories and such. I have this tag for each appropriate category of work: blog article ideas, short stories, magazine pieces for each publication, and even novels. When I'm brainstorming, I can very easily pull up my collection of ideas.

Reference serves to mark reference material. It includes background reading, briefs, page layouts for a magazine piece giving a sense of how the article will flow (and the all-important character count per section) or even extracts from email threads or chats where I discussed the work. I keep these files within their own projects or the general category of work (blog, stories, etc).

Status tags. Active marks my set of current projects, namely those that I'm working on within the current two-week period or so. I find it very useful to occasionally bounce between active projects for a change of pace, and to know what's on my plate. I also use this tag to queue up ideas that I intend to write about in the next week or thereabouts: I usually transfer the idea to a file of its own, mark it as Active, and then get to it when I'm ready.

Pending means that I have completely finished a piece of work (including all edits) and have submitted it in its final form for publication. I review these items whenever a new piece comes out, or every couple of weeks. I also tend to use this tag in the special case that a publication requires a limited exclusivity period: I leave the

I don't want to create tags that overlap anything that's part of a file's content or metadata. That seems redundant.

piece marked as Pending during its exclusivity period, and then remove the tag afterward. I thus know which pieces are (or aren't) available for republication elsewhere.

Retention-policy tags. Important means that a file contains vital information that I may need to access at a glance. It's a tag that jumps out at me in a folder. I use it for things such as government identification numbers, financial information, contracts and such

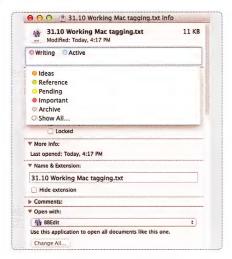
Archive is my 'just keep this thing, even if it doesn't look interesting anymore' tag. I use this tag for my copies of invoices, commissions, installers and uninstallers – stuff that I'd be wise to keep a local copy of. I also use this tag for bank statements and items of that sort. It essentially means 'if you must delete other stuff, at least don't delete this.'

That's the entire tagging system. I told you it was simple.

MULTIPLE TAGS

I try to avoid using more than one tag and my system is designed to avoid that situation wherever possible. I've encountered a couple of exceptions to this rule, however.

Writing and Active obviously come up together a lot. Since active status is most important to me, I tend to mark the project folder with the Writing tag and then classify the work file itself with the Active tag. I employ the same process whenever I use the combination of the Writing and Pending tags.



Double duty. Sometimes you can't avoid attaching multiple tags to a single file.

I could also combine Important or Archive with the Reference tag. In practice, however, if a piece of reference material is no longer currently useful, I just remove that tag.

USING TAGS

You can easily apply and search for tags in many different ways while you're working. For example, you will find a Tags button in the Finder's toolbar and you can also edit tags in a file's Get Info window. Both of those methods are quite fiddly, though. I prefer to specify the tags as soon as I save a file, using the Tags field in the standard Save dialogue box. Doing so autocompletes the tags and it also shows a drop-down menu so you can choose your tags from it.



Custom tags. You can easily choose which tags to display in the Finder sidebar.

You'll probably want to rename a tag, change its colour or even delete it at some point, too. You can do all of those things from the Tags tab in the Finder's Preferences window.

Simply right-click the tag you want to edit. You can then choose which tags show in the Finder sidebar, and rearrange them by dragging. You can also click any of those tags in the Finder sidebar to view a list of files to which you've applied the given tag.

I sometimes want to apply other tags after I've created a file, such as when I want to change the file's status. I could easily do that through a menu command in the Finder (*File > Tags*), but I'm a fan of using keyboard shortcuts, so I went into System Preferences to apply a keyboard shortcut to that command.

This is quite simple to do. Open the Keyboard preference pane and select the Shortcuts tab. Then choose App Shortcuts from the list. You'll want to create an entry for the Finder, within which you type the Tags... command name exactly. Note that it contains an ellipsis at the end, not three periods, and that you can type that punctuation mark by pressing Option-; (semicolon). Once you've created the shortcut, you can quickly trigger the Tags pop-up menu. My shortcut is \$\mathscr{H}\$-Control-Shift-Option-T, which I call 'quadruple-splat-T.'

You can also search for files with your chosen tags by using your

favourite application launcher. If you're using Spotlight, type tag: and then immediately start typing the name of a tag.

If you're an Alfred fan, make sure you have version 2 or later, and then type tags followed by the name of a tag. If you prefer LaunchBar, make sure that it is version 6 or later; then type tags and select the tags option. Each listed tag hierarchically contains all relevant files. LaunchBar even lets you add and remove tags right from its interface.

A SIMPLE, PRACTICAL SYSTEM Tags are safe to use on multiple Macs. If you're signed in to the same iCloud account on all your machines, your tags will remain synced, including the sidebar order and colours.

The tags attached to files are preserved too, including in Dropbox, which is extremely handy. The service didn't preserve tags in the past, but it does now.

That's about it. Many fileorganisation systems are available for
use on modern Macs and for some
people tags seem like an unnecessary
complication. But by being strict about
how I use them, and realistic about
what I want from them, I've found
a system that isn't burdensome to
maintain and helps me manage my
workflow each week. I can't ask for
much more than that.



Easy access. Create your own keyboard shortcut to quickly access the Tags menu.

Three Finder timesavers every smart Mac user should know

BY TOPHER KESSLER

or some users, 'organising files' in the Finder begins and ends with creating folders and moving files into them. But there are a bunch of other things you can do to manage your files in OS X that, whatever your workflow, will make things way easier.

SMART FOLDERS

When you perform a standard Finder search by pressing #-F or using the search bar in any Finder window, you can save this search as a smart folder by clicking the Save button in the top-right of the window. This will save the search as a Smart Folder which, when opened, will only show the files that match your search criteria. (You can also create smart folders by selecting New Smart Folder from the File menu.)

When performing Finder searches, you can use multiple criteria to narrow your search by clicking the Add button (+) at the top-right (next to the Save) then adding more criteria. You can use the drop-down to select specific metadata tags for narrowing your search; if you don't see the ones you want in that list, you can also choose

Seating Trips (April 1997)

Constitution

Co

Narrow it down. By holding the Option key when adding search criteria, you further refine your search by more complex logic.

Other to choose from many, many more.

By default, when you add new criteria to a search, the Finder will do so with And logic, meaning that files must meet all of the criteria to be included in the results. However, you may wish to specify files by excluding some criteria – by using a Not logical statement. You can implement such advanced search logic by holding the Option key down when you click the plus button to add a new criterion.

When you do so, the new criterion will appear with a second line before it, which gives you the option of Any, All or None, to specify how the new criterion (or additional criteria) will be handled in the new search.

ORGANISE SELECTED FILES INTO FOI DERS

Another common frustration is when you have too many files in a folder. You can always rearrange and resort the files with the Finder's view tools. But it can be more useful to arrange related files into subfolders. One way to do this is to create a folder and then drag a selection of files into it. But it's quicker to select the files you wish



Move-to. Right-clicking any selection of files in a given Finder window will allow you to consolidate them within a new folder.

to group, right-click them and then choose the New Folder Containing ## Items where ## is the number of items you've selected.

Unfortunately, this feature is limited to selected files within the current directory, so you can't use it on search results that include files from multiple folders. The workaround: run your search, then select and drag the results to a new folder.

DOCUMENT PATH MENUS

Finally, if you're tired of navigating your file-and-folder hierarchy the old-fashioned way (by clicking on successive parent-and-child folders in the Finder), there's a quicker way to navigate: If you hold down the Control or # key while you click on the little file icon at the top of document or Finder windows (or if you just right-click on it), you'll get a drop-down with the file's path. If you then click on one of the folders in that path, that folder will open in the Finder, with the appropriate child-item selected.

So, for example, if an open document resides in your username/ Documents/Work folder, you can open that drop-down and select, say, your own home folder in the path menu. That will open that home folder in the Finder, with Documents folder is selected.

Likewise, if you select the Documents folder from the menu, then it will open that folder in the Finder with the file itself highlighted. This last option is a quick and easy way to reveal a file on disk, so you can email, move or otherwise manage it.

STM READER TIP

Straighten it while cropping it
I love taking pictures with my iPhone. While editing images is easy enough in other apps,
I like being able to take a picture, make minor adjustments and send them, via a message or email, without having to leave the Camera app.
In iOS 8 Apple was nice enough to allow us to

After you have taken a picture, click the image preview in the bottom left-hand corner to open the full image. At the bottom of the screen select Edit, press the crop icon (second from the left), and crop and rotate to your heart's content.

Linda Bunns

rotate and crop images straightaway.



EACH MONTH, STM gives a prize to the *Macworld Australia* reader who submits the best and most useful tip (undocumented tips preferred). This month's prize is a comfortable and portable STM trust medium laptop messenger bag worth \$149.95.

Designed to carry your 15in laptop in a secure and uber-protective style, the trust can be relied upon for your everyday digital commute. Ample room for your lunch, an extra pair of shoes or even a small change of attire. Great for an urban excursion via bike, train or plane.

Features:

- protective front flap with lined pocket for phone or sunnies
- dedicated laptop compartment designed for a 15in screen an easy grab for airport security
- organisation slip pocketing for paperwork and an extra battery
- front zip organisation panel for business cards, pens, keys, etc.
- internal see-through zippered pocket to hold all the doodads that tend to get lost otherwise
- rear slip pocket for some reading material with phone pocket
- back strap secures the bag to the handle of your travel piece
- padded, non-slip shoulder pad
- dedicated tablet slip pocket with soft nylex lining
- side water bottle pockets with compression straps
- durable yet super light aluminium zipper pulls with large, #10 selfrepairing YKK zippers
- water resistant 320D brushed poly main fabric with 640D reinforced bottom fabric, and
- another front zip pocket just in case!



YOU CAN ASK THE MACWORLD AUSTRALIA TEAM ANY MAC- OR APPLE-RELATED QUESTIONS BY EMAILING EDITOR@MACWORLD.COM.AU. ANSWERS THIS MONTH BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN AND DAN MILLER.

PURN MOVIES TO DISC IN AN IDVD-LESS WORLD

I haven't burned a movie to a DVD in ages but I now need to. How do I manage that when iDVD no longer exists?

via the internet

iDVD, though dead to Apple, still works with Mavericks. So it's simply a matter of laying your hands on a copy of the program, installing it and going about your burning business. Apple no longer sells iLife '11 (which includes iDVD 7.1), but you can find a copy online.

Of course, you can't predict how long iDVD will continue to work. It is, after all, now an unsupported app. Thankfully, it's not your only option.

Roxio recently released its US\$99.99 Toast 12 Titanium (roxio.com.au). New features include live screen capture, support for exporting video to a greater number of devices and the ability to burn HD videos. For our purposes it's an option because it's supported under OS X 10.5 to 10.9, and – like iDVD – converts video to a compatible format and offers menu templates. It's easy to use and does far more than burn discs.

You could also turn to the free and open-source Burn (bit.ly/1cdyjta), which allows you to burn data, audio and video discs. When you create a video disc, however, you must ensure



that the source movies are in the MPEG-2 format. (It will convert .m4v movies for you, but not some forms of QuickTime movies.) And don't expect fancy menu templates or themes: you get bare-bones titles, navigation buttons and little else.

MESSAGE TO IT FROM MAC USERS: TREAD LIGHTLY

The division I work in uses Macs, but we were recently told that our computers and devices will soon be run by the company IT department, which is Microsoft-and Windows-centric. They've solicited our feedback before proceeding, but I honestly don't know what to suggest. Any ideas? Anthony Lanier

Let me say from the outset that working in IT is a thankless job. They hear from the people they're trying to help only when a problem crops up and much of the time people approach them in anger. So try to be sympathetic to their work and grateful that they care enough to ask for feedback. I'd suggest something along the following lines.

Microsoft and Macs sometimes don't mix. IT folks who don't usually work with Macs often have a little too

work with Macs often have a little too much faith in Microsoft's marketing. Microsoft will tell them that Macs work with Exchange just as seamlessly as they do with Windows PCs. This is simply not true. Apple's Mail app can have problems with Exchange – to the point where users can't retrieve their email. Creating and sharing group calendars doesn't always work, and syncing calendars can pose problems as well. The relationship between Exchange calendar and contacts and Apple's Calendar and Contacts apps is not always harmonious.

Walk a week in a Mac user's shoes. The worst sort of IT reply to

complaints from Mac users is: 'It works fine on Windows.' The best response is: 'Let me get on a Mac and see what happens.' If your IT staffers are open-minded and have time on their hands, they'll task a Mac user or two to try the software and services before imposing them on others – and not for just an hour or two but rather for a couple of weeks. If they experience pain they'll do their darndest to fix problems before they roll something out company-wide. And if they can't fix them, they'll offer alternatives.

Stay open to alternatives. If

something like group calendaring doesn't work with Macs or if users are locked out of their email accounts, a good IT department won't leave them hanging. The crew should provide a solution that works, even if that solution lives outside of Exchange and isn't supported across the company. That may mean setting up an alternative Gmail account for when Exchange fails or giving a group access to a shared Google calendar.

Understand the differences between

Macs and PCs. Windows users need antivirus and malware protection on their computers. For all serious intents and purposes, Mac users don't. Too many IT departments impose this kind of software on every user – regardless of the variety of computer they're sitting in front of – because of a belief that security trumps all. The truth is that such software can cause Macs to crash and to perform poorly.

Hire a Mac user/advocate. If the IT group has to support a significant number of Macs and iOS devices, the team should have at least one person who knows the technology thoroughly. You don't want help from someone who believes that the only difference between Windows and the Mac OS is the Apple menu, or who responds to your request to use your iPad for work with 'iPads aren't secure. No'.

Having a Mac person in some



position of power will also help when IT is developing its 2.0 strategy. In that position, this advocate may have the ability to halt or alter plans that could prove distressing to Mac users.

7 JOIN AUDIOBOOK TRACKS

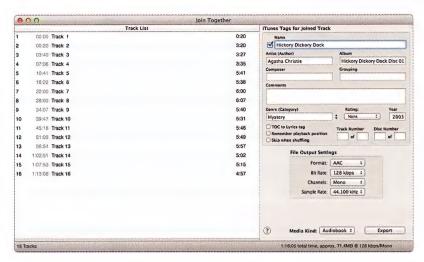
I listen to audiobooks on my iPhone, ripped from discs I own.
But ripping them is inconvenient.
As I load a CD into my iMac, iTunes pops up. I then press ℜ-A to select all the tracks, after which I click Options, select Join CD Tracks, click Import CD and click OK in the Import Settings window to import the selected tracks as a single track. Doing this for a 20-CD book is tiresome. Is there an easier way? David Thomson

I can suggest a couple of solutions. The first is Doug Adams's US\$5 Join Together app (dougscripts.com). It works this way:

Launch Join Together. Insert an audio CD. Within the Finder, doubleclick the CD icon so that you can see the files within. Select those files

Gang-them style.

style.
You can
use tools
like Join
Together
and
Audiobook
Builder
to gang
together
audiobook
files.



and drag them into the Join Together window. They will now appear in the Track List area.

To the right enter a name for the disc in the Name field ('Tom Sawyer-Part 1', for example). You're welcome to enter additional information below. At the bottom right of the window, choose an output format – AAC, mono, at 128 kbps, for instance. Choose Audiobook from the Media Kind pop-up menu. Click the Export button, and Join Together will combine and convert the tracks to the format you've chosen. The app will then add the resulting track to iTunes. Repeat for the next 19 CDs. (You can join the tracks you create from these CDs using the

same process.)

Another solution is Splasm's US\$5 Audiobook Builder (splasm.com). To use it, launch the application, choose to create a new project, click the Chapters tab, select Import CD, insert the first audiobook CD, enable the Single File option, choose a quality setting from the Quality pop-up menu, and click Import. The app will rip the individual files from the CD and combine them into a single track. Click Finish, and Audiobook Builder will encode the file and add it to iTunes.

ADD MOVIES TO YOUR MAC MEDIA SERVER

The computer I use to rip
DVDs resides in my basement
office, and my media-centre Mac
mini sits upstairs. I know I can
copy files from one to the other
via file sharing, but I'd love a way
for movies I rip to be automatically
added to the mini's iTunes library.
Any suggestions?

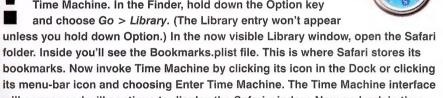
Jason Enns

First, on the Mac mini media server, launch System Preferences, select Sharing and then enable both the Screen Sharing and File Sharing options. Now move over to the Mac where you rip your DVDs.

On that Mac, screen-share to the Mac mini. Launch iTunes on the mini. Now, navigate to the folder where you store iTunes' media files – movies and music, for example. (By default it's in youruserfolder/Music/iTunes/iTunes Media.) Within that folder you'll spy the

TIP: RESTORE DELETED SAFARI BOOKMARKS

If you have deleted bookmarks in Safari and had a change of mind, there is a way to bring them back with the aid of Time Machine. In the Finder, hold down the Option key and choose *Go > Library*. (The Library entry won't appear

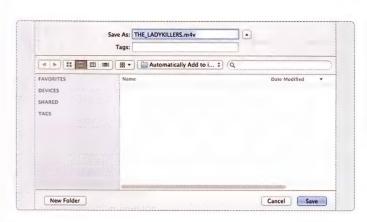


its menu-bar icon and choosing Enter Time Machine. The Time Machine interface will appear and will continue to display the Safari window. Now go back in time until you locate the last version of the Bookmarks.plist file saved before you subjected it to wrack and ruin. Click Restore. You'll be asked if you'd like to keep the original, keep both or replace the current file. To put things back the way they once were, choose to Replace the current file.

If you opt to keep both, the older file will be called Bookmarks (original). plist. Under these circumstances, Safari will open and use the culled set of bookmarks. To use the previous, unedited collection, rename the most recent file to something like Bookmarks (culled).plist and remove the '(original)' from the restored file's name to make it Bookmarks.plist.



left
Media
files. This
folder
causes
items
placed
in it to be
added to



'Automatically Add to iTunes' folder.

Hold down the # and Option keys and drag this folder to the Mac mini's desktop to create an alias of it. Now drag that alias out of the screensharing window so that a copy of it appears on your DVD-ripping Mac's desktop. Leave it there.

When you next wish to rip a DVD, launch HandBrake (handbrake.fr), insert the DVD into your Mac, choose the particular title that you want to rip

and then click the Browse button that appears next to the Destination field.

In the resulting sheet, navigate to the copy of the 'Automatically Add to iTunes' alias that's on your desktop and click Save. The path to the saved file should point to this folder.

Now rip the DVD. When the job is complete, the resulting movie file will move to the Mac mini media server and show up in your iTunes library, ready to play.

Note that the file will display in iTunes as a Home Video rather than as a Movie. (Modern versions of iTunes label only movies you purchase from the iTunes Store as Movie items, and the software now deems ripped movies to be home videos.) You can fix this by selecting the movie in iTunes, pressing %-I, clicking the Options tab in the resulting window, and choosing Movie from the Media Kind pop-up menu.

above
Automated
move. Within
HandBrake
choose the
Automatically
Add to
iTunes alias
copy as the
destination
for your
ripped
movies





High-resolution displays

Displays can offer a productivity boost in the office and a great way to consume media at home, but which suits your needs? ANTHONY CARUANA takes a look.

Samsung Series 5 UHD LED Monitor 28in

Samsung's Series 5 UHD LED Monitor promises a lot. And while the spec sheet is impressive and performance very good, we were left a little flat in our overall impression.

The Series 5 UHD LED Monitor connects to your Mac using either HDMI or DisplayPort. There's DisplayPort cable in the box, but you'll either need an adapter or a DisplayPort to Mini DisplayPort cable to connect your Mac. HDMI was fine for most applications although we weren't able to play HD movies from iTunes as it didn't support HDCP.

We used the Series 5 UHD LED Monitor to edit photos and videos. The matte display was very clear, but we did find that it looked a little washed out. We adjusted the brightness, contrast and sharpness as best we could, but couldn't get the depth of colour we were hoping for.

For general office tasks such as documents, presentations and spreadsheets, the Series 5 UHD LED Monitor did a great job. And, in isolation, it was very good with image editing. But when compared, side-by-side, with other monitors we looked at, Samsung's offering wasn't at the standard we expected.

At 28in, the Series 5 UHD LED Monitor is capable of displaying a lot of data. The display resolution of 3840 x 2160 qualifies it as a 4K display – enough to show four HD movies at one time at their full resolution. It's worth noting, however, that not every Mac can take advantage of that resolution.

We also connected a Blu-ray player to the display and it did a great job of showing that content. But the lack of integrated speakers, despite having a volume control in the setup menu, was a letdown.

Bottom line. In most applications, the Samsung Series 5 UHD LED Monitor will fit the bill and satisfy most users. But serious image and video editors may prefer something with richer output.



Apple Thunderbolt Display

For many Mac users, heading to your local Apple Store and picking up the latest aluminium-clad device with the 'Designed in Cupertino' stamp is the easy option. And while the Apple Thunderbolt Display is a great device, it has fallen behind the competition.

The Thunderbolt Display is really a docking station for Apple's portable Macs. It has two cables – one for power and another that splits in two to deliver power and a data connection. We connected the display to a late model MacBook Pro and required an adapter for the power connection. The single Thunderbolt connection gives the Mac access to three USB 2.0 ports, a FireWire 800 port, a Thunderbolt port, so you can daisy chain devices, and a gigabit Ethernet jack. There's also an iSight camera and speakers.

Image quality from the 2560 x 1440 display is excellent and will fulfil the needs of most users and creative professionals. Colours were crisp and bright. We watched HD movies in full screen mode and edited images shot in RAW and JPG formats.

For general office work, the Thunderbolt Display was able to display a pair of A4 pages side-by-side at full-size. Text was easy to read. The resolution also means that all but the largest spreadsheets can be seen on the screen.

There's no height adjustment, but there is generous tilt. The glossy glass finish does bring a lot of brightness to images, but you'll need to ensure your room lighting is well-placed or you'll see reflections and glare. The speakers were of sufficient quality to ensure we could watch a movie or listen to a movie in the office without things sounding tinny.



Bottom line. The Apple Thunderbolt Display will fit the bill for Apple fans, but there are better value options out there if you're after an external or second display.



\$749 / SAMSUNG www.samsung.com/au

PROS Large; great for the office **CONS** Mac users need adapters; washed out colours



\$1199 / APPLE

www.apple.com/au

PROS Image quality; lots of ports
CONS No height adjustment; need power adapter for new Macs

Dell U2415 Ultrasharp 24 Monitor

There was a time when a 15in CRT was considered 'highend'. So, we were sceptical when Dell sent us a 24in display, telling us it was high-end. However, we're pretty impressed with the U2415 Ultrasharp 24 Monitor.

Dell monitors have represented great balance between price and quality for some time. The Ultrasharp 24 may lack the elegance of Apple's Thunderbolt Display, but it makes up for that with a super thin bezel and a bright and crisp display that makes viewing images, text and video a pleasure.

Connectivity is well-covered with a pair of HDMI ports, a DisplayPort, a Mini DisplayPort, an audio line-out for connecting speakers and five USB 3.0 ports. We connected the U2415 to our MacBook Pro with the supplied DisplayPort to Mini DisplayPort cable and a USB cable. It's not as elegant as Apple's all-in-one cable, but works just as well.

Image editing on the U2415 was a delight. Colours on the matte 1920 x 1200 display were rich and we could see great detail in dark areas and shadows. The U2415's stand is one of Dell's great strengths. There is generous height adjustment, so there's no need to use a couple of phone books to get the screen to an ergonomically safe height and the display can be tilted.

If you're working on documents and page layouts, the U2415 can be rotated 90 degrees so that it's in portrait, rather than landscape, orientation. If you're sharing your work with colleagues, the U2415's base can be easily moved from side to side.

The on-screen menu system, activated by touch-sensitive buttons on the bottom right of the bezel, allowed us to adjust the matte display to optimise viewing in our office. There are several default modes - for example, movie mode increased the brightness - and you can adjust the brightness and

contrast to suit your own preferences.

Bottom line. Dell's U2415 Ultrasharp 24 Monitor offers a great balance between business and creative features at a reasonable price.



ViewSonic VP2770-I FD

ViewSonic seems to fly a little under the radar when it comes to displays, but the VP2770-LED is something of a high flyer. At the size, resolution and image quality it represents extremely good bang for buck.

As the name suggests, the VP2770-LED is a 27in display that uses LED for lighting. It uses white light LED, which did a great job in our view, although purists seem to prefer to RGB LED as they say it reproduces colour more faithfully. The very darkest greys were hard to distinguish from pure black in our testing, but this was a relatively minor quibble for a display at this price point.

Unlike most of the new-generation monitors, ViewSonic still supports analogue input via the faithful D-Sub connector. However, it also handles Dual-Link DVI, HDMI and DisplayPort. There are D-Sub, DisplayPort and Dual Link DVI cables in the box, so you'll need to find a Mini DisplayPort cable in order to get the most from the 2560 x 1440 display.

There's also a USB 3.0 connection so you can use the VP2770-LED as a four-port USB hub.

Like many of ViewSonic's displays, the VP2770-LED delivers a wide range of positioning options. Height, tilt and swivel are there and you can pivot the display between portrait and landscape orientations. Just don't forget to make the appropriate adjustments in your display settings or you'll be trying to change things with everything tipped over 90 degrees.

The bezel is very thin – just 2cm – so you can put two of these next to each other for a two-head display. If you're wondering whether running two monitors is a gimmick, we'd suggest taking a look at the research that suggests the extra real estate adds at least 10 percent to your productivity. Over the course of a year, a second display well and truly pays for itself.



Bottom line.

The ViewSonic VP2770-LED represents great bang for buck for those looking for a great monitor to use when editing images and design work. 🕮



\$489 / DELL www.dell.com.au

PROS Image quality; adjustable CONS Resolution not at the high-end



\$899 / VIEWSONIC www.viewsonic.com.au

PROS Fully adjustable CONS Some issues with darkest colours

iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus

Bigger is in fact better (in the right hands)

hen Apple released the first iPhone, its 3.5in touchscreen seemed huge compared to the displays of other phones. Nonetheless, competitors responded with even larger screens, trying to find areas where they could provide clear alternatives to Apple hardware. Consumers responded positively, so the competition started making even bigger phones.

Whatever good reasons Apple had for sticking with its 3.5in (and later 4in) screens – and there are good reasons, including the fact that it's hard to hold and control larger phones – it also meant it was ceding the large end of the market to the likes of Samsung.

The iPhone 6 and 6 Plus are Apple's reply to the success of large Android phones. The iPhone 6 measures 4.7 inches, while the iPhone 6 Plus comes in at 5.5 inches. Both models will help Apple reach an audience that just wasn't being served by the 4in iPhone 5s and 5c – though the company also risks alienating people who actually preferred the smaller screens.

TWIN WONDERS

The iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are essentially the same device, with differently sized displays and only a few minor internal variations. The phones' release marks the first time Apple has launched two entirely new iPhones simultaneously, as last year's

iPhone 5c was really just an iPhone 5 with a different body.

Hold an iPhone 6 in your hand for the first time, and you can tell it's a very different device from the iPhones of the past four years. Gone is the more industrial feel of the iPhone 4 and 5, with their straight sides and chamfered edges. The new phones have rounded edges, more akin to the iPod touch, iPad and even the very first iPhone.

If the iPhone 6 used the same design as the iPhone 5, but were larger, it would feel immense. But even though the iPhone 6 is slightly heavier than the iPhone 5, its curved edges and thinness save it from feeling like an oversized monstrosity.

Then there's the iPhone 6 Plus. While I wouldn't call it an 'oversized monstrosity,' it's definitely huge. As with the iPhone 6, the iPhone 6 Plus' thinness and curved edges do offset the extra size somewhat. However, you will never mistake the iPhone 6 Plus for the iPhone 6. It's almost two centimetres (or roughly 14 percent) wider. In my average-size male hands, I found I could hold the iPhone 6 Plus, and manage to get my thumb to reach across the screen, at the very bottom, if I concentrated. But beyond looking at the huge screen and doing some simple gestures, this seems to be a device that's made for two-handed operation.

The iPhone 6 Plus is unlike any iPhone before it. Not quite a phone,





not yet an iPad, it's a tweener of a device that's going to be fantastic for some people and completely wrong for others. If you're someone who would really rather not have an iPad, a larger iPhone makes sense. And if you're someone for whom bigger is always better, why not get the biggest iPhone around?

If you don't find yourself nodding at that sentiment, I strongly suggest that you hold it in your hand and try it out.

Beyond the curved sides and two sizes, there are numerous other hardware design changes that Apple has introduced with the iPhone 6. The iPhone 5's round volume buttons have been replaced with thin metal ovals set into a slightly recessed indent just below the silence switch. The sleep/wake button has retreated from the phone's top, and moved to the right side, a first for an iPhone. For longtime iPhone users, it's going to take some getting used to, but on larger phones it's harder to reach that top edge, hence the change.

On the back of the device, the most noticeable change is that the camera now extends outward a bit, its lens surrounded by a thin metal ring. It's a subtle change, and you can still place the iPhone flat on its back with a minimum of rocking. But it definitely won't be perfectly level.

IT'S WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE

The exterior design of the iPhone 6 line marks a change for the iPhone product line, but these models also come with some internal hardware upgrades. They're powered by the new Apple A8 chip, the latest in a long line of chips Apple designs itself, optimised for its own hardware.

The jump to the 64-bit A7 processor last year brought a massive increase in performance to iOS devices. In fact, the A7 offered so much speed improvement, there was no way that the A8 could match the same percentage increase. It's definitely faster than last year's processor, but by a more modest amount. Apple's chart of iPhone performance, which had been depicting exponential growth, shows signs of slowing.

As with the iPad Air and iPad mini with Retina display released last year, the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are running the same processor, but at different clock speeds. Presumably, the clock-speed difference is tied into battery life or heat concerns, or both. The iPhone 6's A8 processor runs at 1.2GHz, while the iPhone 6 Plus clocks in at 1.39GHz, according to GeekBench. Both phones appear to have the same 1GB of memory as last year's devices.

Apple claims that the iPhone 6 has slighty better battery life than the iPhone 5s, and that the iPhone 6 Plus has quite a bit better battery life than that. After spending a long weekend with the two devices, I can corroborate Apple's claims.

Apple says that the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus also sport a new version of





its motion coprocessor, the M8. This chip collects sensor data as you use your iPhone, even if the A8 processor is resting. The new version takes advantage of the iPhone 6 line's barometer, a sensor that lets it gauge elevation changes - such as when you've climbed up a flight of stairs.

Finally, these are the first iPhones to support Near Field Communication. or NFC, as a part of the forthcoming Apple Pay service.

ON DISPLAYS

Apple has dubbed the screen on both iPhone 6 models 'Retina HD.' a strange and somewhat redundant label. In reality, the iPhone 6's 4.7in display has the same screen density (326 pixels per inch) as the iPhone 5 line. The pixels aren't packed any tighter on the iPhone 6 - there are just more of them, because the screen is 110 pixels wider and 198 pixels taller.

The iPhone 6 Plus is a different story. Its 5.5in screen has a resolution of 401 pixels per inch, the most ever on an iOS device. That means it's a full 1080p display.

Apple has also added a feature called Display Zoom that's essentially the software version of those 'largeprint edition' books used by people with vision problems. When you turn Display Zoom on, the phone emulates the display of a smaller phone and

then scales it up to full size. This is a great feature for anyone who feels like the content on their iPhone is just too small. It also means that while these phones are bigger, that bigness can either provide more room or just make everything larger. We all get to pick. Nicely done.

Without Display Zoom turned on, these devices have enough extra screen real estate for Apple to add new columns of buttons to the sides of the standard iOS keyboard - but only when held in landscape orientation. (In portrait orientation, the keyboard feels a bit bigger, but it's still the standard iPhone keyboard.) In landscape mode on the iPhone 6 Plus, the left side of the keyboard lets you cut, copy, paste, bold text and undo an action, in addition to triggering international or Emoii keyboards and voice dictation. On the right side of the keyboard, you can move the cursor forward or backward. add an exclamation point or question mark, comma or period.

On the iPhone 6, which is quite a bit narrower than the iPhone 6 Plus. the additional commands are an undo button and a comma on the left side. and cursor keys and a period on the right side. (Since these phones also run iOS 8, they also offer the new optional QuickType suggestion bar at the top of the keyboard, and will

support third-party keyboards if you don't want to use the default.)

On the iPhone 6 Plus, Apple has updated several of its apps, including Mail and Notes, so that they also behave differently when they've got the ultra-wide field of view in landscape mode. Both apps switch to a two-column view, with a list of items on the left and a preview or editing area on the right - the same behaviour that you'd see when you rotate those apps from portrait to landscape on the iPad. Even the iPhone home screen has got into the action, rotating for the very first time on the iPhone 6 Plus. (The Dock, you'll be interested to know, slides to the right side of the screen rather than stretching out across the bottom à la the iPad.)

But for all the features a large screen can bring, the fact is that it's very hard for someone using the device one-handed to reach the top of that screen. Apple's creative solution is a new feature called Reachability. Put simply, Reachability slides the top of the screen down to where your thumb can reach it. To activate Reachability, you tap twice on the home button (without pushing – the touch ID sensor can tell when





you're just touching). Everything on the top half of the screen slides down, bringing it within reach.

Reachability isn't the most elegant concept I've seen Apple develop, but it does make the size of these phones more manageable when you're using only one hand. After a few days, Reachability became something that I used without thinking, and it generally did what I needed it to. However, I did find it to be a bit inconsistent. The iPhone home screen doesn't slide all the way down, for instance — it scrolls the main icons down, leaving the dock and the top bar where they were. No other app interacts with Reachability in this way.

I also found that in some cases, the contents of the screen immediately snapped back to the top when I tapped something. In other cases, there was a pause of a second or so after a tap, enough time to tap something else, or scroll or interact with the interface in other ways. I don't like this inconsistency, and in general I think it would be better if the iPhone always waited a second to make sure everything's done before turning off Reachability. Right now, I never really know what's going to happen when

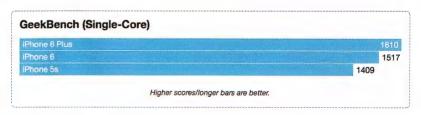
I tap something when in Reachability mode, and that's not good.

SHARPER FOCUS

Every new iPhone model generally brings an upgraded camera. This year's models haven't improved on the iPhone 5s in terms of megapixels – these phones still have 8-megapixel cameras – but add a raft of new features intended to improve the photo- and video-taking experiences.

Focus is improved in several ways. Apple says that it's added dedicated 'focus pixels' to the camera, which help it autofocus faster. Face-detection algorithms have been improved. And there are improvements to autofocus performance on video. The focus behaviour in video is the feature I noticed the most – video focus has never been really been one of the iPhone's strong suits. But the focus in the test videos I shot with the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus were clear and smooth, never seeming robotic or jarring.

The super slow-mo feature means you can now shoot at 240 frames per second, allowing for smooth action that runs at one-eighth the speed of normal video. That feature, combined with improved video stabilisation that





makes videos feel surprisingly smooth, should make videos of skateboard tricks and swimming pool dives more impressive than ever before.

The major difference between the two cameras is really only a factor when in low-light situations. The iPhone 6 Plus camera has the added ability to do optical image stabilisation, where the camera hardware actually moves as you do in order to minimise blurriness in dark situations where the camera's sensors need more time to absorb light in order to get a viewable picture. There are also software techniques Apple uses in low-light situations, but only the larger camera actually has physical stabilisation hardware.

BOTTOM LINE

Make no mistake: the most important new thing about the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus is their size. While their processors run faster and their cameras focus more exactingly, the real story is that these are larger phones with larger screens. That's better for displaying photos and videos, of course, and often for just allowing more information to fit on the screen. But there's also a cost: the smaller your hands are, the harder these phones are to handle.

I'll wager that for most iPhone 5 users, the iPhone 6 will be a solid upgrade and, after a few days of adjustment, they'll never miss their old iPhones. As for the iPhone 6 Plus, it's a device that will undoubtedly find its adherents. They might be people who use their iPhones constantly and also need as much battery power as possible, or people with large hands, or people for whom it will be the only computing device they'll use every day. Samsung and other competitors have showed that there's an audience for extra-large phones - and that's now an audience that can buy an iPhone. That's the whole point. B.



APPLE / iPHONE 6 www.apple.com/au

PROS New design more comfortable to hold; big screen; improved camera

CONS Hard to hold in small hands

\$869 (16GB); **\$999** (64GB); **\$1129** (128GB)



APPLE / IPHONE 6 PLUS

www.apple.com/au

PROS Giant screen; long battery life; extra interface elements in landscape orientation

CONS Difficult to use one-handed

\$999 (16GB); \$1129 (64GB); \$1249 (128GB)





Wasteland 2

Wasteland 2 continues 2014's streak of fantastic CRPGs, managing to feel fresh even when saddled with a well-trodden post-apocalyptic setting.

t's been over a quarter century since the original *Wasteland*, a post-apocalyptic RPG that influenced an entire genre, most notably by serving as the inspiration for the *Fallout* series. After pitching the project for years, inXile and Brian Fargo raised funding for a successor through Kickstarter and it's finally here: *Wasteland* 2.

Wasteland 2 is a traditional-style CRPG (computer role-playing game), complete with isometric camera view, turn-based battles, and lots of numbers. You manage a team of up to seven Desert Rangers on a quest to keep peace in Arizona and the surrounding areas.

The Rangers are a shadow of their former glory. Once a force for good in Arizona, they've grown weak and cowardly, holed up in an old bunker in an effort to 'regain strength' while the rest of the world has gone to hell. And that's where you come in.

You're sent out from the Ranger base to take over a mission that saw a veteran ranger named Ace killed. As you can imagine, a simple mission to find some radio towers escalates fairly quickly into a threat the likes of which the Rangers haven't seen in 20 years.

Wasteland 2 offers insanely branching gameplay options depending on your dialogue, skill set and gameplay choices; you're free to wander the world map as you please, and you can kill anybody in the game – including your Desert Ranger Superiors. If you like, you can even let both the food and water station burn at the beginning of the game. Wasteland 2 will reshuffle its narrative accordingly.

Not that there's always an emotionally satisfying choice available. It's stressful: you never feel like you're doing a good job, never feel like you've succeeded. There are also just as many situations that have no good outcomes. Instead you're damned if you do, damned if you don't, and you just have to live with your choices.

It's tough to be a Ranger for other reasons, though. Wasteland 2, I love you to death, but, damn, you do hold on to some of the most frustrating aspects of old CRPGs.

Creating a character is a nightmare. You're confronted with a big ol' menu full of numbers, and you click those numbers until you think that you've created a viable character. And then you do that three more times. And then, five hours in, you realise you screwed everything up and are stuck with half-useless characters. Or 20 hours in you hit the difficulty spike and realise the same thing.

Wasteland 2 also reveals how likely you are to succeed at a skillcheck, and in doing so encourages savescumming. Behind-the-scenes dice

rolls are always done on the fly, so if you come to a locked door and it says you have a 10 percent chance to succeed? Just save and reload a dozen or so times until you finally get it!

And the main scenarios in Wasteland 2 are so extensive, so full of depth, that it makes the rest of the content feel like awkward filler. Luckily there's plenty of main content.

Plus, the main maps are chock full of interesting diversions for those who stray from the beaten path: side stories, hidden items and hilarious bursts of world-enhancing environmental text abound.

Bottom line. I want to be the postnuclear version of Uncle Sam – to point, stare straight into your soul, and say "I want you for Desert Rangers." Even with its flaws, Wasteland 2 is nothing short of outstanding.

- HAYDEN DINGMAN



INXILE ENTERTAINMENT

www.inxile-entertainment.com

PROS Difficult, morally ambiguous choices; fantastic companion and NPC dialogue

CONS Weak side content; intimidating character creation

U\$\$39.99 (STANDARD); U\$\$59.99 (DELUXE EDTION)

61

LIFX smart light bulbs

The humble light bulb has undergone a smart makeover, with the ability to control LIFX smart bulbs from your iGadgets without getting off the couch.



The LIFX iOS app lets you connect the bulbs to your home Wi-Fi network, with one bulb acting as a master controller for the others. Switch off the master bulb at the wall and you temporarily lose control of the system until another bulb takes on the master role, a handover that has thankfully become faster with firmware updates.

To avoid this, you're expected to always leave the wall switch on and control the lights with your phone or tablet, an arrangement that may not suit everyone in your home. Unfortunately, there's no integration with smart wall switches, as you'll find with some other smart bulb ecosystems, although it's on the LIFX roadmap.

LIFX's big selling point is the ability for the bulbs to change colour. Along with red, blue and green LEDs, there are also white LEDs to offer an impressive 1000 lumens brightness. You have 16.7 million colours at your

command, along with the ability to dim the bulbs. You can't specify exact colours, instead you drag your finger around a colour wheel. When it comes to white, you can choose from 16 colour temperatures - depending whether you're after a warm yellowish light or a cool blue-ish light - but you can't specify an exact Kelvin temperature.

Rather than go through these fine colour adjustments each time you turn on the bulbs, you can create pre-sets, which is useful if you want to quickly dim the lights for watching the television or set the mood for a romantic dinner. You can give each bulb a name and group them for easier control.

This year's firmware updates brought candle flicker, lava lamp and strobe options, joining the original visualiser feature, which changed the colours in time with the music playing in the room. Dimming features have also improved to reduce oversaturation, so your warm light pink is less likely to turn into a murky dark red, although there still aren't separate saturation controls.

Unfortunately, some of the features promised when the LIFX first launched as a Kickstarter project are vet to materialise. There's still no support from remote access via the internet, or a link to If This Then That for interacting with web services. You can



set a timer, but not a regular schedule. Once again these features are on the roadmap, as part of LIFX Cloud, but if you want them now you should look to Belkin's WeMo smart gadget ecosystem.

LIFX recently added support for Google's Nest smart thermostat and hopefully other cloud features aren't far away - check blog.lifx.co for details.

Bottom line. Controlling your lights using your phone is an impressive trick, but whether or not the novelty wears off depends on what other uses you find for the bulbs. If you use a daylight lamp for craftwork or have other specific colour requirements, then LIFX may be just what you're looking for. The slow rollout of advanced features is frustrating for early adopters, so check exactly which features are available before you take the plunge. 🏻

- ADAM TURNER

PROS Bayonet, screw and downlight options

CONS Large bulbs; no wall switch integration

\$129 PER BULB



Aten CS533 Tap

he CS533 Tap, from specialised connectivity and management technology company Aten, is a control unit that allows access to one computer and two Bluetooth devices from a USB keyboard and mouse.

The Tap unit converts your USB keyboard and mouse into Bluetooth-enabled devices, allowing for easy sharing between your wireless devices. In short – you can connect your desktop or laptop keyboard to your iPad or iPhone via Bluetooth without purchasing a more expensive Bluetooth keyboard and mouse. In fact, the two Bluetooth connections mean you can have both your iPad and your iPhone paired to the Tap unit at the same time.

To set it up, you simply connect the Tap to an iMac or MacBook via USB, connect a keyboard and mouse to the USB ports on the Tap, then pair the unit to your iPad or iPhone via Bluetooth. When you select the CS533, it will give you a four-digit code to enter on the keyboard – then you're connected.

The Tap is very responsive and I had absolutely no issues with typing on my iPhone, it was easy to use. The best feature is the series of hotkeys, which provide various functions, such as switching the keyboard and mouse between your iMac and your iOS devices. The hotkeys made switching between my iPhone and iMac a breeze.

Bottom line. The Aten CS533 Tap provides a convenient and economical way to connect your OS X and iOS devices to a single keyboard, while enabling a seamless switch between each device without touching a single cable.

- HARRY TUNNECLIFFE



ANYWARE

www.anyware.com.au

PROS Low price; highly responsive; easy to connect

CONS Creates more cable clutter on your desk

\$69

Griffin Technology Crayola MyPhones

can tell you that when it comes to children, not all headphones are created equal. Thanks to big earpieces, decorative options and reasonable sound, Griffin's headphones were an attractive option for my children.

Each earpiece is connected to the hard plastic headband by thin, metal rails – the only metal on the headphone – and tilts up and down a few degrees for a better fit. Though the overall appearance is decidedly kid focused, and the headphone fits children as young as two or three years old, the earpieces extend enough that many adults will be able to wear the headphones, as well.

The outer surface of each earpiece is quite plain, but that's because each package includes roughly 30 stickers that can be applied to the earpieces and headband. Kids can decorate the blank stickers using three included Crayola fine-tip markers.

The blue model includes red, blue and green markers; the pink model includes pink, purple and yellow.

Before even trying them on, my kids were excited to get their hands on the MyPhones, thanks to the decorative opportunities.

Griffin claims the volume-limiting circuitry restricts volume levels to approximately 85dBA. Using the Ear3, I verified that when connected to my source iPhone at maximum volume, the audio output occasionally reached the 'borderline safe' level of 85dBA, but the majority of the time, audio was actually in the 75dBA to 84dBA range.

Sound isolation, however, is minimal, despite the large, soft earpads, which means that in loud environments, your kids

may have trouble hearing headphone audio.



Bottom line. The MyPhones offer good bass, the midrange that doesn't sound too hollow or echoey and OK treble response. For their part, my kids, who haven't yet been cursed with a desire for stellar sound, thought the MyPhones sounded great.

- DAN FRAKES

\$\$\$\$\$

GRIFFIN TECHNOLOGY

www.griffintechnology.com

PROS Decorative stickers and markers; lightweight

CONS Gender-biased decorations; quiet

US\$24.99 + SHIPPING

Accounts - multi-company & currency, parent child, multi address, integrated google Accounts - multi-company & constraint address Integrated google maps, CRM - payroll - payrun, superannuation, superannuation adjustment, next of kin, department, class, multi-award, RDO, cost spiriting by department, multiple of kin, maps, CRM - payroll - payr maps, Ckrit department, class, them of kin, company, department, multiple bank company, department, class, them company, department, multiple bank accounts, leave loading, allowances, child support, leave loading, rebates bank accounts, leave loading, salary sacrifice, workers compensations, unlimited accounts, accounts, accounts, leave loading, company, class, company, accounts, leave loading, rebates, salary sacrifice, workers compensations, unlimited accounts, leave loading, company, compensations, com company, leave loading, allows salary sacrifice, workers compensations, rebates, salary sacrifice, workers compensations, unlimited super packaging, commission structures, leave, long service leave, carer & personal leave, full super packaging, annual leave, full statement of Leave, page pages annual leave, full super super leave, super leav accounts, commission structures, long service leave, carer & personal leave, unlimited super packaging, commission structure, long service leave, carer & personal leave, future leave, funds per employee log file, Statement of Leave, payrun log, service, logg, respects and the leave, logg, respectively. packaging, per employee, annual to statement of Leave, payrun log, service, loan, reversals, accumulators, employee log file, Statement of Leave, payrun log, service, loan, reversals, accumulators, employee schedule - Job Projects - resources, activities, time sheets, alleger accumulators and the sheets alleger accounts and the sheets alleger accounts and the sheets alleger accounts accounts and the sheets alleger accounts and the sheets alleger accounts accounts accounts and the sheets alleger accounts accounts and the sheets accounts accounts and the sheets accounts accounts accounts and the sheet accounts accounts accounts accounts and the sheet accounts account account accounts accounts accounts account accounts accounts account accounts accounts account accounts account accounts account accounts accounts account accounts account accounts account account account accounts account accounts account account accounts account accounts account accounts account account accounts account account accounts account accumulators, employee log liberations, employee log liberations, employee log liberations, employee log liberations, encounted liberations, employee log liberations, log, service, loan, reversals, accumulators, time sheets, allocations, capital allowance schedule - Job Projects - resources, activities, time sheets, allocations, capital allowance, job project credit memos, details, cost, analysis, interesting liberations, log, activities, log, capital allowance scriedos project credit memos, details, cost, analysis, job project invoices, job project credit memos, details, cost, analysis, job project project analysis, job project project analysis, job project project analysis, job p job project invoices, job project job project invoices, job project job project invoices, job project gantt charts, planning and quoting, billing, GL budget, resource & project gantt charts, financials, planning of the formula pricing bill of materials (BOM), size/colour style matrix, tracking notes - Inventory - manufacturing, bill of materials (BOM), size/colour style matrix, tracking notes are product, formula pricing, hire, lay by, multi-shop, batch and serial unlimited barcodes per product, formula pricing, hire, lay by, multi-shop, batch and serial number tracking, inward goods, arrivals & deliveries, resources, price-book, multiple locations, multi-department, open to buy forecasting integrated emailing, document management, integrated soft phone. Sales reps, quotes, orders, invoices, requisitions, purchase orders and purchases, delivery run maintenance, dashboards, show reports, stocktake entry, transfer entry, build entry, unit demand, manifest, manager, asset purchase - Management - statement of position, months activities, cash & account movements, tax calculation, auditing tools, FX currency settings - Assets - passwords, password passwords passwords. management, location management, lox and company depreciation, serial number tracking, warrantee at tracking, warrantee storage, insurance — rails, barcode, company and tax valuation, service, loan, tax valuation, service, loan, computer equipment of the storage of the s computer equipment details, disposar, purchase, revaluation, repair, service, loan, master of capital allowages. reversals, capital allowance schedule - **Utilities** - User access inquiry, task inquiry, organise is inquiry, task master defaults, remote access defaults, co inquiry, department inquiry, system convergence organisation chart, work flowers access defaults, co inquiry, department inquiry, administration, web senses server administration, web senses server administration, wide organisation chart, work flow rules inquiry change menus and names. server administration, web server - Workbook Constitution chart, work flow rules inquiry change menus and names. server administration, wide web server - Workbook - CRM COM nants, tracking notes - System wide - document management, CRN sor spreadsheet, wysiwyg a back query editor report writers, SQL databas

www.sapphireone.com



Parallels Desktop 10 for Mac

If you need a Mac with a split personality, Parallels Desktop 10 makes it easy to run multiple operating systems at once.



arallels' virtualisation software mimics PC hardware, letting you trick Microsoft Windows into thinking it's running on a standalone computer when it's actually running in an application on your Mac. You can even run several versions of Windows, OS X and Linux simultaneously if your Mac has the grunt to cope.

Keep in mind that Parallels is just a hardware emulator and you still need to supply your own copy of the operating systems. Using Parallels is different to Apple's Boot Camp, which involves booting into Windows instead of OS X. You can set Parallels to run Windows from your Boot Camp partition, although it may not run as smoothly because you're still running OS X underneath.

The strength of Parallels Desktop is that it lets OS X and Windows talk to each other, which makes life easier if you're regularly switching between the two. This goes far beyond the ability to cut and paste text. Parallels Desktop 10 lets you access iCloud Drive and Photo Library from Windows, plus you can use the Yosemite Continuity features such as right-clicking on a number in Internet Explorer to call with your iPhone. There's also integration with the email, cloud storage and social media accounts already configured in OS X. If you use two-factor authentication you'll need to set it up again on the virtual machine, because it's considered a separate device.

Of course, pretending to be more than one computer at a time has a performance impact. Parallels Desktop 10 promises to launch Microsoft Office applications up to 50 percent faster, while taking less of a toll on your battery life. There are new one-click optimisation options depending on whether you're focused on productivity, gaming, design or software development.

You can run Microsoft Windows in a window on your Mac, or perhaps full-screen on a separate desktop, but one of Parallels' most useful features is Coherence mode. This lets you hide the virtual machine and just run Windows applications straight from the dock, so they look like they're actually running on your Mac.

If you're using Parallels for software testing on various platforms, you'll benefit from the new Parallels Control Center, which makes it easy to manage all your virtual machines and their configuration settings from a single place. The new linked clone feature lets you run several versions of the same Windows machine side-byside, so you can see the impact of any changes you make.

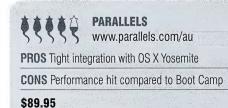
Installing Parallels Desktop 10 is very straightforward and if you've got an older version of Parallels Desktop installed it will update while leaving your virtual machines untouched, so you won't have to install Windows again. Install a fresh version of Windows 8 and you can set your

optimisation preferences and whether you want it to boot to the desktop or the Modern UI tiles.

With a Core i7 processor and 8GB of RAM in our MacBook Pro, we had Windows 8 Pro happily running in a window without a major performance hit, although firing up extra machines took its toll. The 'Start screen as Launchpad' is impressive, using Coherence mode to run the Windows 8 tiles over the OS X desktop. Meanwhile, the ability to open files in Coherence mode simply by dropping them on the Windows icon in the dock certainly makes life easier.

Bottom line. Even when you allow for the cost of a copy of Windows, running it in Parallels on your Mac is obviously more cost-effective and convenient than buying a separate PC, which often sits idle. Coherence mode lets you get on with the job without wrestling with Windows, while tight integration with OS X Yosemite is the icing on the cake.

- ADAM TURNER



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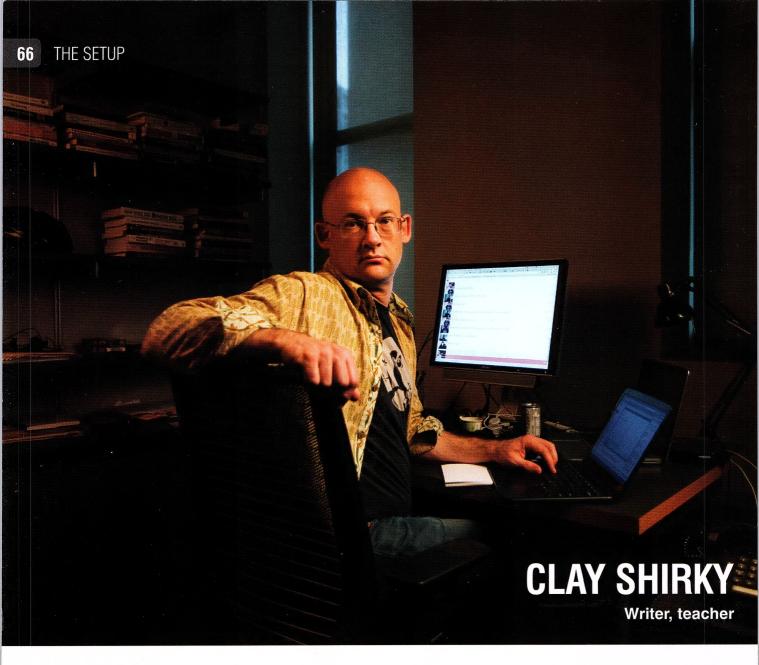
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WHAT DO YOU DO?

Since 2001, I've been teaching at NYU, working on the social and economic effects of the internet. I wrote a couple of books about social media – *Here Comes Everybody* and *Coanitive Surplus*.

WHAT HARDWARE DO YOU USE?

Right now, I have a Chromebox as my work machine, an 11in MacBook Air as my home machine, a 15in MacBook as the family computer and an Ubuntu netbook as the 3D-printer base station. The kitchen machine is a cheap Chromebook, which is fine for recipes and playing NPR. My other work machine (at my office) is a 15in MacBook with a dead screen that I use as a desktop. My actual 'carry it with me' laptop is another 11in MacBook Air.

I have two Kindle Paperwhites (I lost one, replaced it and then found it again).

The Kindle's best feature is that it offers no way for me to check my email or look things up on Wikipedia.

I carry two phones. My web phone is a Galaxy S, which has a physical keyboard. Like most 'bar of soap' designs, it's optimised for lots of things, with the notable exception of synchronous voice. I also carry an LG flip phone, which is useless in every respect except two: call quality is great and the battery lasts for days.

AND WHAT SOFTWARE?

A working machine for me has a browser, a Telnet window and a text editor. My writing tool from 2003 to 2012 was BBEdit with WebDAV (lately Dropbox). In 2012, I moved my writing to Google Docs and my coding to Sublime Text. (My browser is Chrome.)

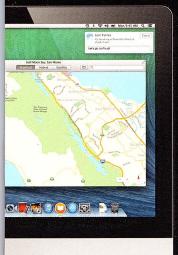
I have never been That Guy with strong, thoughtful musical tastes and well-groomed playlists. I'm currently happy with Banshee, iTunes, Pandora, Rdio and clicking on random YouTube and SoundCloud links my friends post.

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM SETUP?

I dislike what I've seen of Mavericks. So my next 'carry it in my bag' machine will probably be either an Acer Chromebook or a Lenovo running 13.04.

That said, I actually don't want a 'dream setup'. At the end of every year, I junk a lot of perfectly good habits in favour of awkward new ones. I have to be willing to bang around with things I don't understand until I do understand them.

Interview courtesy of The Setup (usesthis.com; Twitter: @usesthis).



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